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# SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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## THE BIG CUP ROW

THE NSW Soccer Federation appears certain to switch the State Bank Challenge Cup to a mid-season competition in 1988.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

Federation president John Constantine said: "This year too many games were played as pre-season training runs and that is not good enough."

"In addition no reference was made to us over the transfer of the (Beach Fashions) NSL Cup to a 16

team competition which excludes the State League teams.

"There is nothing to stop us getting maximum value for both our sponsors and the NSW Federation."

That would leave a hole for a pre-season

competition.

And the question would have to be resolved as to whether West End NSL teams would play in the State Bank Cup.

With the NSL already having following its own course away from the NSW Federation and presumably some other states as well, don't be surprised if NSW and others involved chart their own way in 1988.

**ANSETT CUP**  
to be  
**SYDNEY CROATIA**  
versus  
**SOUTH MELBOURNE**  
or  
**MELBOURNE CROATIA**

**FOOTSCRAY AFTER**  
**\$100,000 SEKULARAC**  
**UNHAPPY — Page 8**



MODELLING for the Cup — NSL deputy chairman Tony Labbozzetta and Beach Fashions' managing director Peter Sfikas with model Julie-Ellen York, Michelle Douglas and Lisa Luchetti.

The Johnston Question . . .



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JULIE-ELLEN YORK, aged 20, one of Beach Fashion's gorgeous professional models, is seen at the Press launch announcing the Company's \$250,000 sponsorship of the "Beach Fashions Soccer Cup".

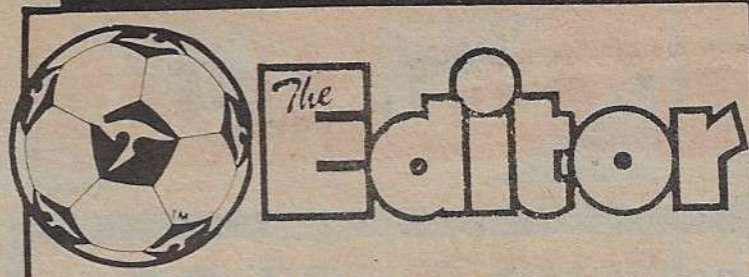
A.S.W. was told by Julie-Ellen that she spends her free time, when not modelling Beach Fashions' products, at pursuits such as swimming and horse-riding.

Julie-Ellen is seen here wearing a Beach Fashions one piece, well-cut black swimsuit that will grace Australia's beaches from next summer.

Other codes, eat your hearts out.

BEACH FASHIONS PARADE — See Pages 12/13.





**W**HEN it comes to the quality of regular Soccer grounds in Australia the pride of place must go to Melbourne's Olympic Park.

Upgraded by the Victorian Government some years ago, it provides an excellent facility for the numbers of fans who attend major matches in that city.

That is not to say however that Olympic Park has any great standing compared with major facilities around the world.

Indeed it pales in significance compared with major Australian rules grounds in Melbourne and Adelaide.

In Sydney the Parramatta Stadium and later the new Sydney Sports Ground provide comfort and good viewing for the fans.

Brisbane's Lang Park is also noteworthy and rugby league is the main code in these cases.

Due to the foresight of Charles Valentine and his supporters in Sydney, the NSW Soccer Federation has the major work completed on what is probably one of the best coaching complexes in the Southern Hemisphere.

Without being in any way derogatory, this remarkable property at outer suburban Parklea might be classed more as a two-edged sword, as its value is offset by the fact that the money expended by Soccer and Government does not produce a ground which the code can use for major matches — those for example which could draw some 30,000 people.

It will still be necessary to play international matches on grounds usually reserved for rugby league.

In addition the NSW Federation has a \$400,000 debt to wipe off on the project.

It must be expected that the NSW Board can see that income is capable of being generated to service the debt.

They are putting the appointment in train for the person who will be charged with this responsibility.

But for a long time past it has been clear that there are huge advantages in the policy adopted by rugby union in both Brisbane and Sydney.

The gradual improvements to the Ballymore and Concord Oval grounds will provide money spinners for that code.

So much so that their authorities cast aside thoughts of using the new Sydney Sports Ground for their coming international series and have decided upon the 20000 capacity Concord.

They obtain the gate receipts for everyone attending the games. At grounds such as the Sydney Cricket Ground and presumably the new Sports Ground the Ground Trust and the august members appear to be the main beneficiaries.

The Australian Soccer Federation is planning to have first use of the new Sydney Sports Ground for the 1988 Gold Cup series.

It will be interesting in due course to know the rental and associated costs because more international matches in Australia have to be converted into profitable exercises for Soccer.

The Trust has had to borrow huge extra funds to complete the SSG and this must go into rent calculations.

But in NSW there is an ongoing trend to obtain very large sums for improvement of rugby league grounds spread around the city and now the country, from the NSW Government.

According to well authenticated reports the Newcastle Rugby League club — seeking \$2 million to improve Newcastle's International Sports Centre and has been asked by the State Government to put the plans before them before the end of this month.

This begs the question of where Soccer is going with the improvement of many of its substandard arenas.

It seems to be time to seek more funds for such purposes, regardless of the Parklea project.

Address all correspondence to  
**THE EDITOR**  
**AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY**  
P.O. Box 406  
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## ROBBIE HAS ANOTHER BITE AT THE GOALSCORING CHERRY

### SLATER BACK ON THE TRACK...

ROBBIE Slater is feeling good with five goals in two games for his new club Croatia.

Ironically these two goals in the State Bank Cup semi-final arrived against his club of last season, Blacktown City.



ROBBIE SLATER... on target for Sydney Croatia.

Robbie has not been a prolific scorer of goals.

After a couple of lean years at St George he seemed to be classed as a "setter up" of goals for others.

It is possible that his lack of scoring was what caused Frank Arok to allow him to go to Blacktown last year.

It is true that Arok had to trim his budget, but I

feel if he had really rated Robbie as a scorer he would have somehow managed to hold on to him.

One of the problems for Slater at St George was that he was predominantly used as an out-and-out winger — a role of provider, rather than a scorer of goals.

I have always rated Slater as a potentially ex-

cellent goalscorer.

Like former St George ace Des Marton, who he must have learned so much from, he has excellent dribbling and kicking skills.

He moves so well in possession of the ball.

#### Drought

However, in 1985 after watching him in a game for St George, I discussed with him three reasons he might not be getting many goals.

He was then in the middle of a very dry period, with hardly a goal over a period of 10 or more weeks.

He was dribbling across field too often, rather than attacking defenders and trying to get into the 'box'.

Generally he was seldom in the penalty box for volleys, headers or through balls. Too often he was found in wide positions, or deep positions.

And finally on the couple of occasions he did get into the penalty box, once to hit a bouncing ball and another to volley a cross, he took such a long 'wind up' — that is drawing his kicking foot so far back — that his shot was blocked each time.

So I suggested he might try going straight at players, getting in the 'box' more often and hitting bouncing balls and close-in shots with a quick, short stabbing technique, rather than slower, power drives.

Next week he scored two goals.

However, I thought that this might be a coincidence.

This may have been the case because Robbie did not score many more goals during that 1985 season, his last with St George.

What he is doing now, to suddenly find goalscoring form with Croatia, I do not know, not having seen him since that 1985 season.

#### Laid on

Perhaps Croatia is setting up lots of chances for him, maybe like a batsman at cricket he is in the middle of a "good streak", perhaps he has new confidence.

Robbie seems to have had a tendency to run hot, then not so hot at various times during a season.

Certainly with goalscoring there are certain requirements needed to score consistently week in, week out.

The prime one is to be able to regularly find goalscoring positions close to goal and put the ball away, whether it be with elbow, knee, head, ankle, foot or whatever.

**ADVERTISING**  
**COACHES PLAYERS**  
**RING**  
**JOHN ECONOMOS**  
(02) 660 2033

Mike Denton, a striker I coached during my time at St George, was such a prolific goalscorer, always sniffing around the goal.

He was aware that most goals in Soccer are scored from within 10 yards of goal.

Bobbie Charlton, of Manchester United and England fame, was the opposite to Denton.

Almost all of his goals were scored from outside the 'box' and almost all of



STEVE MAXWELL... competition from down the road at Bossley Park.



MIKE JOHNSON  
ex English  
First Division

them were memorably bulging the net as the screamed from a lethargic left foot, drawn with a long follow-through, producing a little power.

Charlton was not a prolific scorer, but scored goals that live in the memory.

It is hard to remember any of Mike Denton's goals.

Des Marton combined the ability of Charlton and Denton. I consider him the most technically gifted striker I have seen and I am amazed that he did not win a greater reputation in his country of Yugoslavia.

So what will the season hold for Robbie Slater?

Will he blossom there at Edensor Road under the eye of knowledgeable and enthusiastic Croatian supporters?

The silky skills of Mike Lamond, plus great, practical talent of Graham Arnold should complement him well he remains.

They will have competition down the road at Bossley Park, where Frank Farina and Steve Maxwell, aided by attacking midfielder Zlatko Nastevski, advertising their abilities for the benefit of the mandating Marconi crowd.

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# CRAIG JOHNSTON — WILL HE EVER REPRESENT AUSTRALIA?

## THE DALGLISH FACTOR

BY KEITH GILMOUR

**SPARKED** up by Australian coach Frank Arok's approach to Liverpool's Craig Johnston to become a Socceroo, the wires rang hot for a week or so in a bid to establish his position.

Something might yet come out of the hoo-haa that went on, but there is a distinct feeling that it will amount to nothing in the fullness of time.

And that is after taking into account that Craig Johnston possibly has nowhere else to go, internationally speaking.

He played a couple of under 21 friendlies for England, but Bobby Robson has left it at that.

The Scottish Football Association has turned him down — even though he could qualify through having a Scottish grandfather.

Craig admits that he himself had turned Scotland down to play for England under 21. That does not go down all that well over the border.

So, theoretically, it seems that only Australia is left.

But, so typical of Craig Johnston, by accident of birth the Newcastle NSW youngster saw light of day in Johannesburg, South Africa.

That means, surely he is qualified for them.

But they have been ruled out of FIFA this many years on the apartheid question, so that avenue — if it ever existed — is also blocked.

### Welcome

**Frank Arok is entitled to welcome Johnston with open arms, if he could get him.**

He knows where he stands with Jim Patikas (AEK Athens) and David Mitchell (Eintracht Frankfurt). They will make themselves available to Australia when the occasion demands.

There must be a secret longing to be able to field Eddie Krncevic (Anderlecht), but any move would have to come from the Australian expatriate in view of his past comments on the Australia boss.



**EDDIE KRNCVIC ...** bucked the system but reached the heights.

Former Young Socceroo Andrew Bernal appears to be anchored in Spain, and he would have been a great prospect also.

Johnston, 26, is approaching the height of his football career.

He was only a kid when he left Newcastle for Middlesbrough, but by dint of his own forceful personality, he has made every post a winner since then.

With Liverpool he has won just about every honour that could be showered upon him.

His no-nonsense style has made him a hero, even in a star-studded line-up such as Liverpool's.

A couple of years ago he came back to Newcastle as his local NSL club, and inspired them for a number of guest appearances.

### Risk

But, at the height of his career, he would be hardly likely to again contemplate such a return excursion, even if it could be offered.

The risk of injury would surely be too great.

He is currently carrying a bone chip in his back. This could require surgery, but the problem is apparently not as great as was indicated.

But the real point behind Johnston's appearance for Australia or any other country is the attitude of Liverpool player-manager Kenny Dalglish.

Craig was ready to buck manager Joe Fagan at Liverpool when they did not see eye to eye.

And, in the tough world of English First Division football, Johnston managed to come out on top.

Dalglish had played with him and knew what he could do.

He was back in favour, but that is where Dalglish's overriding interest begins and ends.

The task of keeping Liverpool at the top belongs to Dalglish, and he is not accident prone.

### Global

**He claims that having Johnston travelling across the globe for occasional appearances in the Green-and-Gold could hardly be in Australia's interests.**

Surely that must be a tongue-in-check comment of the year, because, without knowing much about Australian Soccer, Dalglish can hardly expect that this country is paved with 'Johnston gold'.

Arok contends that Johnston could have turned Australian into a winner against Scotland in the vital Oceania-Europe clash last time round.

That's a hypothetical situation, but top football is all about players.

A coach can mould them, but he must have the right material to work on.

And Johnston is right up there in the success rating of his exploits.

But the crunch with Dalglish is that he wants his players giving their all to Liverpool week by week.

In turn, players such as Craig Johnston knows where their bread is buttered, and moreover where the extra jam comes from also.

Hopefully Craig Johnston may yet play for Australia. But he would have to overcome what might well prove to be an unscaleable mountain.



**DAVID MITCHELL ...** driving force.



**FRANK AROK ...** chased Johnston



**JIM PATIKAS ...** success in Greece.

## MARCONI AND CSR GYPROCK PUT ONE IN THE NET:

### Marconi — Gyprock Youth Development Programme 1987 Soccer Clinics

Coaching from the experts — for players from Under 9 to Under 15. There'll be two clinics held at Marconi Field No. 2 Marconi Road, Bossley Park, with between 25 and 100 players at each clinic.

CSR Gyprock will give each player a T-shirt and provide caps for goalkeepers. Fees for the clinics will be \$40 for each player, and the best player in each age group will have the \$40 fee reimbursed by CSR.

Clinics: Tuesday April 21 to Friday April 24 (incl.)

Tuesday July 7 to Friday July 10 (incl.)

Coaches to include Roberto Vieri, Tony Henderson, Bruce James, David Lowe, Steve Maxwell, Robert Wheatley and other senior Marconi coaches and players.

To attend the clinic, please apply by completing this coupon and send to:

Mr. K. Charles, Soccer Secretary,  
Club Marconi, Marconi Road,  
Bossley Park, NSW 2176.

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Address .....	Home Phone No. .... Date of Birth .....
Grade Currently Playing .....	Club .....
Preferred Playing Position .....	School .....
Preferred Clinic Dates .....	



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## SYDNEY CROATIA TAKES CUP

SYDNEY Croatia, last year's Ampol Cup winner, repeated their success by winning the State Bank Cup 2-1 against the favourites Marconi at the Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Marconi, although a faster team plus having home advantage, looked a little lethargic if not complacent, whereas Sydney Croatia battled on as a unit with a far more disciplined objective.

"Our match tactic was to choke Marconi in the midfield with close marking and retain as much possession as possible," a jubilant Sydney Croatia player-coach, Vedran Rozic said after the match.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

"And thankfully, my team was able to do all this," he smiled with relief.

But Marconi's coach, Roberto Vieri, answered these comments later, by saying... "Everything sounds correct when you win, what can you say when it is otherwise?"

Marconi's middle line of Ian Gray, Craig Mason, Zlatko Nasteovski and David Lowe were

not entirely outplayed by Sydney Croatia's quartet of David Rezo, Mark Jones, Zarko Odzakovic and Shane Clinch.

Slater in the 31st minute had Marconi completely shattered as he streaked away in a 55 metre raid down the middle of the pitch with Marconi's blond skipper and centre-back Tony Henderson in hot pursuit.

Once in the box Slater let fly with a thunderbolt which goalkeeper James, diving sharply to his right, managed to tip just wide outside his right post for a corner.

### Disaster

Disaster hit Marconi in the 11th minute when defender, Paul Carter, made a horrendous back-pass to his goalkeeper, Bruce James. James dived to his right to smother the ball, but Croatia's lurking right flanker, Robbie Slater, swooped in on the goalkeeper, apparently ripping the ball with his boot out of James' gloves to score from five metres out.

Six minutes from the break, Marconi's goalscorer Zlatko Nasteovski lined up a free-kick

awarded for a foul on David Lowe. But the Yugoslav Marconi midfielder just scrapped the cross-bar with his delicately clipped effort, with Anthony Franken covering the opposite post.

Seconds later, from the edge of Sydney Croatia's box, Nasteovski had another free kick offered to him. His second effort crashed onto the right post, as Steve Maxwell raced in to head the rebound towards the net. But Croatia's star striker, Graham Arnold, appearing from nowhere, kicked Maxwell's header off the line to save.

### Equaliser

In the 73rd minute, the Marconi Stadium exploded with a roar as the home side finally equalised.

A Marconi player was fouled inside Croatia's box as players scuffled closely for the ball. Referee Gary Power played the advantage as he quickly saw the ball roll to Wheatley who had pushed up into attack. Wheatley lashed out a fierce drive that saw the ball rocket into Croatia's net.

But Marconi's jubilation was short-lived as five minutes later, the visitors hit home their second and eventual winner.

Socceroo left-back, Graham Jennings, raided up the left "Chalk", clipped his cross to the back post for Arnold to head backwards to Jones. Jones most gratefully accepted this "gift" and with his head, volleyed the ball like a bullet into Marconi's net.

To rub further salt into Marconi's wounds, their little midfielder, David Lowe copped a red card in the final sixty seconds for "language", from Mr Power.

In an overcrowded, joyous Sydney Croatia dressing room, club president, Mr Tony Basic

boasted... "before I left home, I wrote the final score on a piece of paper and left it with a bet I had with my son. I won the bet."

With a towel wrapped around him as he prepared for well-earned shower, Croatia's player-coach, Rozic told ASW: "We had to close Marconi down quickly in the midfield and this we did. All the team played with confidence."

Stars for Sydney Croatia (who now face

the cup winners from Victoria, either Melbourne Hellas or Melbourne Croatia for the "Ansett Cup"), were Odzakovic, Rozic, Vlietstra and Arnold, whilst for Marconi, Wheatley, Craig Mason and Farina tried hard all day.

MARCONI: James, Carter (Gunning 70th), Gomez, Henderson, Wheatley, Gray, Mason, Nasteovski, Lowe, Farina, Maxwell.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken, Savor, Rozic, Vlietstra, Jennings, Rezo, Odzakovic, Jones, Clinch, Slater, Arnold.

Referee: G. Power, Crowd: 10,023.

## BLACKTOWN DEFEATS DEPLETED MELITA

A MUCH depleted Melita-Eagles went down 2-1 to Blacktown City in the State Bank Cup 3rd place play-off, when no less than seven of their players could not turn out for the match last Sunday at the Marconi Stadium due to injuries.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Blacktown City, with their coach Les Scheinflug back out from hospital, were missing only one regular first grader, and that was their goalkeeper, Steve Watson.

Alex McPherson, a former Melita and Sydney City custodian, came into the nets to cover for Blacktown City.

The Eagles were able to block any further goals from Blacktown City till the break, but early in the second session, Blacktown City's greater experience started to show through as Melita started to slowly but surely cave in at the back.

Yet Melita put up a good fight to give Blacktown more than a run for their money.

A most unfortunate incident in the 29th minute saw Melita down a goal.

A Blacktown City cross whipped into the box, saw fill-in captain for Melita Ray Farrugia

screw his attempted clearing header past his own goalkeeper into the net for an "own goal".

With Melita's normally ever-alert goalkeeper Dragan Pupovac out of his line, Sandy's eventual shot was brilliantly cleared off the line by defender, Lindsay Smith.

Blacktown City assured themselves of finishing in 3rd spot in the 74th minute when they knocked in their second goal.

Flanker, David Sharpe, zipped in a cross from the right to find Thornthwaite hungrily awaiting in centre-box to be fed. Thornthwaite in a flash smashed his first time place-shot high into Melita's goals.

With only seven minutes left on the clock, Melita still gallantly came forward defiantly, and were rewarded for their courage with a consolation goal from Andrew Callanan.

MELITA EAGLES: Pupovac, Laing, Smith, Buchanan, Cabassi (Meerban 75th), Callanan, McFadden, Farrugia, Brown, Vial, Ortiz.

BLACKTOWN CITY: McPherson (Avellino 46th), Maier, G. Sterrey, Reynolds, Northam, Jefferey, Kay, Ellem, Sandy, Naumov (Thornthwaite 46th), Van Blark.

Referee: R. Lorenc.

**WEEKEND MATCHES & PREVIEW**  
See Page 18

## CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE PROVIDE THE WAY TO GO

BY ALAN VEST  
NSW DIRECTOR OF COACHING

CENTRES of Excellence are springing up all over Europe and with the emphasis more than ever of producing all round players rather than young players for specific positions.

These centres are concentrating on the best players.

We have vast numbers of young players playing the game in Australia and they are well catered for at the club and branch level.

The new scheme is to cater for the best boys in each association and the NSW country areas, Western, Riverina and Southern.

It is envisaged that the best 20 boys in each group 9-12 and 13-16 will be brought together for one hour each week, virtually on a yearly basis.

From these Centres of Excellence boys will then be selected for the NSW

Academy, where they will spend six weeks during the year at Valentine Park.

From there the best boys will be selected for the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

With systems becoming more flexible and less rigid, the emphasis is more and more using flair, dribbling and running with the ball, and the Centres will concentrate on these aspects.

Coaches involved in the scheme will all be qualified, with the emphasis on those who have played or are playing National League or State League.

### NORTH BANKSTOWN SOCCER CLUB

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This well-performed club in NSW Second Division seeks players to fill vacancies in all grades.

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### SUPERVISOR FOR VALENTINE PARK

THE NSW Soccer Federation is keen to unearth a supervisor to manage the Park-lea project.

Valentine Park, funded by a combination of Soccer and Government funds, now stands with \$400,000 owing on the project.

Capital and interest must be repaid together with general maintenance expense.

The complex is a showpiece as a sports coaching set-up, but it has to earn its keep.

The NSW Soccer Federation will appoint a supervisor who will be

charged with the responsibility of the promotion and marketing of the centre.

The appointee will maximise usage, set rates and supervise the entire operation.

It is up to Soccer organisations to utilise these magnificent premises to the utmost.

Other sports can also use Valentine Park, and basketball has not been slow to utilise the excellent indoor court.

The Federation will also employ an administrator to run the office, with the Board directing promotional activities.

— KEITH GILMOUR



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## THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION STATE LEAGUE 1987

1st Grade 2.30 p.m. (All Division)  
2nd Grade 12.30 p.m. (All Division)  
3rd Grade 10.50 p.m. (All Division)

<b>ROUND 10</b> 9/10-5-87		
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	INTER MONARO
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	URUGUAY
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
SUTHERLAND	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
		Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C Bruce Stadium Arlington Oval Gabbie Stadium Berkeley S/G Seymour Shaw Pk

<b>ROUND 19</b> 11/12-7-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
INTER MONARO	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	URUGUAY
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
SUTHERLAND	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park Melita Stadium Wollongong Show/G Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval

<b>ROUND 2</b> 14/15-3-87		
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
INTER MONARO	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
URUGUAY	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	SUTHERLAND
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
		Cromer Park Marco Polo Ground Mona Park Hurstville Oval Berkeley Sports Gd Arlington Oval Gabbie Stadium

<b>ROUND 11</b> 16/17-5-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	SUTHERLAND
INTER MONARO	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
URUGUAY	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval Berkeley S/G Melita Stadium

<b>ROUND 20</b> 18/19-7-87		
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	INTER MONARO
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	URUGUAY
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	SUTHERLAND
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
		Arlington Oval Gabbie Stadium Berkeley S/G Hurstville Oval Bruce Stadium Narrabeen F/C Adamstown Oval

<b>ROUND 3</b> 21/22-3-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	URUGUAY
INTER MONARO	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
SUTHERLAND	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
		Valentine Park Marco Polo Ground Wollongong S/G Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Melita Stadium Narrabeen F/C

<b>ROUND 12</b> 23/24-5-87		
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
SUTHERLAND	Vs	INTER MONARO
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	URUGUAY
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
		Wollongong S/G Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C Bruce Stadium Arlington Oval Gabbie Stadium

<b>ROUND 21</b> 25/26-7-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
INTER MONARO	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
URUGUAY	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
Melita Eagles	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
SUTHERLAND	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park Mona Park Melita Stadium Wollongong Show/G Seymour Shaw Pk

<b>ROUND 4</b> 28/29-3-87		
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
URUGUAY	Vs	INTER MONARO
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	SUTHERLAND
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
		Hurstville Oval Mona Park Cromer Park Berkeley S/G Gabbie Stadium Arlington Oval Bruce Stadium

<b>ROUND 13</b> 30/31-5-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
INTER MONARO	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	SUTHERLAND
URUGUAY	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval Berkeley S/G Gabbie Stadium

<b>ROUND 22</b> 1/2-8-87		
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	INTER MONARO
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
SUTHERLAND	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	URUGUAY
		Narrabeen F/C Bruce Stadium Arlington Oval Berkeley S/G Adamstown Oval Seymour Shaw Pk Gabbie Stadium

<b>ROUND 5</b> 4/5-4-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
INTER MONARO	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	URUGUAY
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
SUTHERLAND	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park TBA Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Melita Stadium

<b>ROUND 14</b> 6/7-6-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	INTER MONARO
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
URUGUAY	Vs	SUTHERLAND
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
		Parklands Oval Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval Berkeley S/G Bruce Stadium Arlington Oval

<b>ROUND 23</b> 8/9-8-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
INTER MONARO	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
URUGUAY	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	SUTHERLAND
		Parklands Oval Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval Melita Stadium Wollongong Show/G

<b>ROUND 6</b> 11/12-4-87		
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	INTER MONARO
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
URUGUAY	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	SUTHERLAND
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
		Gabbie Stadium Berkeley S/G Hurstville Oval Mona Park Arlington Oval Bruce Stadium Narrabeen F/C

<b>ROUND 15</b> 13/14-6-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	INTER MONARO
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	URUGUAY
SUTHERLAND	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
		Parklands Oval Melita Stadium TBA Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Bruce Stadium Narrabeen F/C

<b>ROUND 24</b> 15/16-8-87		
SUTHERLAND	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	INTER MONARO
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	URUGUAY
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
		Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval Gabbie Stadium TBA

<b>ROUND 7</b> 18/19-4-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
INTER MONARO	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
URUGUAY	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
SUTHERLAND	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park Mona Park TBA Seymour Shaw Pk Melita Stadium

<b>ROUND 16</b> 20/21-6-87		
URUGUAY	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	INTER MONARO
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	SUTHERLAND
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
		Mona Park Cromer Park Hurstville Oval Berkeley S/G Gabbie Stadium Arlington Oval Bruce Stadium

<b>ROUND 25</b> 22/23-8-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
INTER MONARO	Vs	SUTHERLAND
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
URUGUAY	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval Berkeley D/G Melita Stadium

<b>ROUND 8</b> 25/26-4-87		
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	INTER MONARO
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	URUGUAY
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	SUTHERLAND
		Bruce Stadium Arlington Oval Gabbie Stadium Berkeley S/G Hurstville Oval Narrabeen F/C Adamstown Oval

<b>ROUND 17</b> 27/28-6-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
INTER MONARO	Vs	URUGUAY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
SUTHERLAND	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Gd Melita Stadium Wollongong Show/G Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C

<b>ROUND 26</b> 29/30-8-87		
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	INTER MONARO
SUTHERLAND	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	URUGUAY
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
		Melita Stadium TBA Seymour Shaw Pk Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C Bruce Stadium Arlington Oval

(NOTE: See Round 1 5/6-9-1987)

<b>ROUND 9</b> 2/3-5-87		
KU-RING-GAI	Vs	WARRINGAH F/WATER
INTER MONARO	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
MANLY WARRINGAH	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
URUGUAY	Vs	BLACKTOWN CITY
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	SUTHERLAND
		Parklands Oval Marco Polo Ground Cromer Park Mona Park Hurstville Oval TBA Melita Stadium

<b>ROUND 18</b> 4/5-7-87		
WOLLONGONG MAC	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
ROCKDALE ILINDEN	Vs	INTER MONARO
URUGUAY	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	WOLLONGONG CITY
CANT. M'VILLE OLY	Vs	SUTHERLAND
CANBERRA CITY	Vs	NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	MELITA EAGLES
		Berkeley S/G Hurstville Oval Mona Park Gabbie Stadium Arlington Oval Bruce Stadium Narrabeen F/C

<b>ROUND 1</b> 5/6-9-87		
INTER MONARO	Vs	KU-RING-GAI
WOLLONGONG CITY	Vs	MANLY WARRINGAH
SUTHERLAND	Vs	URUGUAY
NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD	Vs	ROCKDALE ILINDEN
WARRINGAH F/WATER	Vs	WOLLONGONG MAC
BLACKTOWN CITY	Vs	CANBERRA CITY
MELITA EAGLES	Vs	CANT. M'VILLE OLY
		Marco Polo Gd Wollongong S/G Seymour Shaw Park Adamstown Oval Narrabeen F/C Gabbie Stadium Melita Stadium

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# THE QUEENSLAND REPORT

With Greg Russell

## QUEENSLAND'S BALANCE UPSET BY PRE-SEASON CLUB EXPERIMENTS

### POSSIBLE QUEENSLAND SQUAD

Rob Farrow (Lions), Wayne Evans (City), Frank Mengotti (City), Frank Liddell (Lions), Russell Stewart (Lions), Alan Niven (Lions), Richard Bassingthwaite (Lions), John Stewart (Lions), John Ogden (Lions), Marty Kirsopp (Mount Gravatt), Kieran Cooper (City), Mark Brusasco (Coalstars), Brett Bruery (Lions), Jim Morton (Lions).

PRE-season experimenting is thwarting Queensland coach Bruce Stowell's bid to pick a strong Maroons team to play Fiji in two tests at Perry Park this month.

### FIJI AT PERRY PARK

Stowell is using the Queensland Soccer Federation's XXXX pre-season tournament as his official selection trials before naming a 14-man squad for the two Fiji games on March 22 and 25.

He hopes to be able to include a number of players outside of the Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City former NSL squads which have dominated the State scene for the past decade.

But some of the players from other clubs that Stowell was strongly considering have been played out of position in the XXXX pre-season

games.

"There's not a lot I can do. I can't tell other coaches where to play their players and I can understand that the pre-season is the time to experiment," Stowell said.

"But it is extremely difficult for me to pick a player, who I feel could do a job for me in a certain position, when he is playing badly in an unfamiliar role."

The classic case has been with Federation champions, Coalstars, who as last season's best-performed local side could have been expected to provide Stowell with a number of selection possibilities.

But in their two opening games, solid young defender Alan McFarlane was used in the midfield and powerhouse striker

Mark Brusasco wandered far too keep in search of the ball.

What is making Stowell's job even more difficult is that outside of Lions, very few other teams have performed well.

Last year against NSW, Stowell fielded nine Lions players along with City's Frank Mengotti and Kieran Cooper in his starting line-up. He was hoping to expand his talent base this year to include players from other clubs, but on showings so far, that looks unlikely.

Lions have the most impressive XXXX pre-season tournament result to date, an 8-0 thrashing of Olympic United which so easily could have gone to double figures. On that showing alone, Stowell would have a formidable and complementary outfit if he used the entire Lions team as his Queens-

land side against the Fijians.

### Player Spread

But he remains adamant: "I will not pick 11 Lions players".

As noble and fair as that attitude is, it could in the end hang him. To deviate too far from his side of last season could be suicidal against the free-flowing and attacking islanders.

Stowell does have two gaps to fill, created by the Southern transfers of Danny Wright and Steven Jackson, but again Lions looks to have the replacements.

Russell Stewart has been playing sweeper of late and looks the natural choice to take over Jackson's defence role for the Maroons while Brett Bruery has been in fine goalscoring form and Stowell would find it difficult to unearth a better goal poacher.

Stowell still maintains there are "four or five places still very wide open" in his squad — but then he always has been a diplomat. At the same time he always has been a realist, and his squad of 14 is certain to have no less than eight Lions.



FRANK LIDDELL ... will worry Fiji.

## NO STYLE IN FLAT DISPLAY FROM COALSTARS IN CUP

COALSTARS coach Brian Styles fired a scathing attack on his squad after a dismal performance in the XXXX pre-season tournament last week.

The time has come "to deflate a few heads" Styles said after his team crashed 3-0 to Taringa Rovers in a first round match, threatening the Federation champions with an early exit from the tournament.

"It was a gutless performance from fallen stars," Styles added. "Last year we won what we did because we worked for it, but now it seems some players think they don't have to put in that work anymore."

Last season, Coalstars won the grand final, the Ampol Cup and the President's trophy and were among the favorites to reach at least the semi-finals of this year's XXXX pre-season tournament.

Although they open the competition with a 2-1 win over Easts, their performance against Iain Kesson's keen young Taringa was woeiful. Taringa's "Gerd Muller" Marty Ratcliffe darted in to score this side's first just after half-time and former Lions striker Calvin Daunt finished two fine moves to give his team a convincing win.

The XXXX pre-season is also serving as Bruce Stowell's trial games for his Queensland squad to meet Fiji this month, but after the

defeat Styles told his players they had blown their chance of wearing the Maroon.

"On that performance, I can't offer Bruce Stowell anyone. He's got a hell of a job and he's got to rely almost totally on Lions players now," Stowell said.

"If he wants to pick anyone from Coalstars then it will have to be on their reputations from last year."

While the Coalstars dressing room was like a morgue, Taringa were ecstatic with their win and coach Kesson predicted his young team of amateur players may finally come of age this season.



BRYAN STYLES ... Coalstars woeiful.

"It's only early days and we won't get too carried away with the result but it shows that we will be competing with the best this year," Kesson said.

"If we can do what we are capable of doing, then we will be up there with the best at the end of the season."

And Kesson fired a timely warning to the former NSL teams,

Lions and Brisbane City, who are rated early favorites to dominate this year's competition.

"I wouldn't want to be in the NSL teams' shoes this season. Just like everyone is out to beat Coalstars because they won the grand final last year, everyone will be even more keen to beat the former National League teams," Kesson said.



MARK BRUSASCO

## DOUBT OVER LIONS' DAVIE RICHARDSON

BRISBANE Lions' Irish striker, Davie Richardson, tipped by many to be the leading XXXX League scorer, is having a frustrating pre-season.

Richardson was sidelined with a knee injury after just two games in the Silver Boot competition more than a month ago. But complications should see him off the scene for at least another month.

The 26-year-old former Coleraine striker was to have an operation last week, after the knee failed to respond to more than three weeks of intensive physiotherapy. But tests just before the operation indicated movement was finally returning to the injured joint and the decision to open his knee was postponed.

"They think it's cartilage and to be honest I would be happy if it was. At least they could do something about it and I'd know I would be

right in a few weeks," Richardson said. "But at the moment it is a real worry, just not knowing what the problem is."

Lions coach Col Bennett is keen for Richardson to regain fitness as the Irishman is seen as a key player in helping the Richlands side regain its National League status.

Although Lions sold former Young Socceroo Danny Wright, Richardson is similar in style and his sharpness in the box has produced goals in the past.

He scored three goals in just six games for Lions in the latter half of last season's NSL after he arrived in Brisbane following an Irish season which saw him net 26 times.

"I really want to have a good year and show everyone what I can do. It's frustrating being on the sidelines and as each week goes past I am falling further behind in fitness," Richardson said.

"Hopefully though the doctors will get my knee right in the next week or so and I will be ready and fit by the start of the fixtures."



RICHARD BASSINGTHWAIGHT ... scoring mood.

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# The Nationwide Round-up



## SAINTS EAGER FOR APIA IN THE NSL'S 1987 "OPENER"

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST SOCCER CLUB, celebrating their 30th Anniversary, will open the 1987 West End National Soccer League on Friday fortnight with their home match against APIA-Leichhardt at the St George Stadium.

The Saints have many things planned as added attractions for the evening, including some bright pre-match entertainment.

Friday night football could be the go for the future and the Saints want to 'Give It A Go' under lights.

The new West End NSL season, starting armed with the biggest cash sponsorships in the history of the League, shapes up as the most exciting season yet.

West End's huge deal with the NSL to sponsor the League and Beach Fashions' \$250,000 sponsorship of the NSL Cup, have more than underwritten the League's financial stability for the next three years. The future had looked grim a few months before.

But on Friday March 27, all action will break out as the curtain lifts for the new season with the

Saints-APIA clash.

St George manager Frank Arok and APIA's coach, Rale Rasic, not exactly bosom buddies in years gone by, promise a Battle Royale for the fans that night.

St George will field their youngest team ever in the NSL following Arok's massive Summer Sale of players.

On the other hand, APIA has made some selective signings that will bolster last season's squad, mainly in the persons of Socceroo skipper Charlie Yankos and former Marconi striker, Rod Brown.

It could be a matter of "David vs Goliath" at the St George Stadium that night.

Lotto again will be St George Budapest's major sponsor for 1987.

Kick off at St George Stadium is at 8pm, with special celebrations breaking out from 6pm.

## SYDNEY TOURNAMENT BEGINS TOMORROW

A Sydney NSL club tournament kicks off tomorrow night with matches set down at the St George Stadium and Marconi Oval. Both matches start at 7pm.

The tournament to be played over three nights culminating into the final on Friday March 20th, will see the eventual winner take out 1st prize money of \$10,000 with the runners up grabbing \$5,000.

Tomorrow night at the St George Stadium, the Saints face the flying Sydney Olympic, whilst at Marconi Oval, Marconi will line up against APIA.

Next Sunday Sydney City, who last Sunday won the "Trans Tasman Qantas Cup Winners Cup" by defeating New Zealand's North Shore by 2-0, will play St George in the early match at 4pm in a double header at Marconi Oval. The late game at 6pm sees State Bank Cup winners Sydney Croatia line up against Marconi, the team they beat last Sunday for the State Bank Cup.

The Sydney NSL tournament is seen as a final serious warm-up of matches before the 1987 West-End National League kicks off on Friday night, March 27th.

The finals have been set down as a double header at the St George Stadium on March 20th,



Mike Coady

with the winner of Group A playing the winner of Group B for the big cash. In the early match, the second-placed team from Group A plays the second-placed from Group B.

After watching last Sunday's Cup final in which both Sydney Croatia and Marconi showed top form for so early in the year, prospects look very bright for some great football in the new season.

Sydney Olympic this week expect their two

English defenders, Martyn Rogers and Mike Coady, to return from England. Both will be rushed into the first team for this tournament.

## SAINTS vs APIA

FRIDAY  
MARCH 27th  
8PM

ST GEORGE STADIUM

1st Match of the  
1987 West End National  
Soccer League

Pre-match special  
attractions starting  
at 6pm

THE NIGHT THAT THE LEAGUE  
KICKS OFF  
BE THERE

WEST  
END

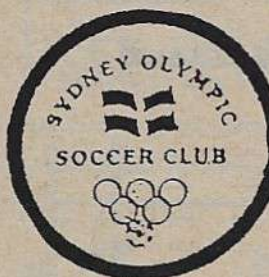
## SYDNEY NSL TOURNAMENT

WEST  
END

### PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT

#### GROUP A

SYDNEY CITY  
ST GEORGE  
SYDNEY OLYMPIC



#### ROUND 1 WEDNESDAY, 11th MARCH, 1987

ST GEORGE  
MARCONI

V SYDNEY OLYMPIC  
V APIA

St George Stadium  
Marconi Stadium

7pm  
7pm

#### ROUND 2 SUNDAY, 15th MARCH

SYDNEY CITY  
SYDNEY CROATIA

V ST GEORGE  
V MARCONI

Marconi Stadium  
Marconi Stadium

4pm  
6pm

#### ROUND 3 WEDNESDAY, 18th MARCH

SYDNEY OLYMPIC  
SYDNEY CROATIA

V SYDNEY CITY  
V APIA

St George Stadium  
Croatian Centre

7pm  
7pm

#### GROUP B

SYDNEY CROATIA  
MARCONI  
APIA



## FINALS

FRIDAY 20th MARCH

## ST GEORGE STADIUM

1st GROUP A vs 1st GROUP B  
2nd GROUP A vs 2nd GROUP B



# VICTORIA'S BUFFALO GOLD CUP 1987

## IT'S SOUTHS V CROATIA FOR THE CUP

MELBOURNE Croatia will have the opportunity to challenge for the Buffalo Gold Cup this coming Saturday night at Olympic Park.

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

They meet South Melbourne in a Cup-tie which promises to be the best Victoria has seen in recent years.

Terry Hennessey's

troops will aim to make it a second successive win of the Buffalo Cup, having won the coveted trophy last year under the leadership of the ill-fated

**FOOTSCRAY IS  
AFTER \$100,000**

FOOTSCRAY JUST is looking into the future with very great anticipation.

An extraordinary general meeting on Sunday resolved that former president Tony Amon will rejoin the committee in a desperate bid to generate the necessary capital for the survival of the club.

Amon is one of a team of influential Footscray members who have prepared a plan to channel

into the club's treasury \$100,000 for the recruiting of players.

According to reliable information coach Dragoslav Sekularic had threatened to resign from the club if it failed to recruit established players for his immediate needs.

Sekularic strengthened his plea during the week, after long-serving midfielder Vlatko Belic was transferred to Brunswick Juventus for an alleged fee of \$15,000.

### TASMANIAN NEWS

## KEN MORTON COMPLETES HIS OLYMPIA-WPL ASSESSMENT

BY VAN DIEMEN

OLYMPIA-WPL returned to Tasmania after an eight-day training camp in Sydney with one draw and three losses under their belts.

They drew 1-1 with Sutherland and lost 1-0 to Blacktown City, 6-3 to Polonia and 6-0 to Sydney City.

Coach Ken Morton was very pleased with the exercise, however, and said that his players and adapted well to the week of full-time training.

He said that he had now completed his assessment of the club's players and that he should be able to field a side that will challenge for top honours.

The club had two top goalkeepers in Martin Burden and John Collar, and the defence would be strengthened by the acquisition of David Crosson and Matthew Bloomfield.

#### Settlement

Caledonians have appointed Karl Pless as senior coach in place of Tommy Wright, who was in charge of the team for the past two seasons.

Pless has had experience with Croatia-Glenorchy junior teams and the Clarence senior side and he holds the Level 3 coaching certificate.

Last November, Calies announced the appointment of Welshman Les Tibbott as their senior coach but the former Ipswich Town player reneged on his contract.

Calies had threatened him with legal action because of breach of contract but the matter has now been settled amicably out of court.

Calies are much relieved after top striker Ian Parker re-signed for the club this week after training and playing for Juventus-Pioneer in the pre-season.

The club have also signed 16-year-old goalkeeper Damian Smith from Olympia-WPL.

He will keep goal for the senior team this season as Luis Di Venuto has gone to Italy on holiday.



Paul Trimboli

Miron Blieberg.

South Melbourne also prepare for a hard shot at the Cup and coach Brian Garvey is confident his star-studded side will have the guns on Saturday to down Croatia.

Melbourne Croatia went to the final after defeating Heidelberg United 2-1 in the first semi-final, last Saturday night at Olympic Park.

In spite of the three

goals the game was no more than a scrappy affair, which gave spectators very little value for their money.

The night however evolved into a personal triumph for Croatia's speedy winger Paul Lewis.

Lewis opened the scoring after six minutes, setting Croatia on their way to an easy victory.

Heidelberg's latest re-

cruit Paul McKenna grabbed the qualiser in the 33rd minute for the teams to remain deadlocked until the 54th minute, when Paul Lewis restored Croatia's lead with a powerful header.

#### Very Physical

South Melbourne however had to offset the deficit of one goal before claiming full points with a 2-1 win over Sunshine George Cross.

The game was marred by some physical clashes of players, which finally reduced the game to a street fight.

Most of the responsibility for the intolerable behaviour of the players rests on the shoulders of referee Bernie Upjohn, who lost control of the game early in the piece allowing players to take the rules of the game into their own hands.

Talented youngster John Markovski shot George Cross to the lead after 35 minutes.

But on the stroke of half-time Souths' captain Bobby Russell — last year's Rothmans Medal winner — levelled the score with a powerful ground shot.

Charlie Egan grabbed the winner 12 minutes into the second half, slicing into the net a precision cross by Gary McDowall.

But Souths can thank their goalkeeper Peter Laumets for their appearance in the final of the Buffalo Cup.

Seconds only before the final whistle Laumets went airborne to tap over the crossbar a blistering header from point blank range by Sean Parton.

#### Search

National coach Frank Arok spent Saturday night in Melbourne focussing on promising prospects for his Soccerroo team.

Arok was suprised by the belated entry to the game of the George Cross brilliant forward Paul Trimboli, recruited in the off season from the AIS.

He made a lot of complimentary comments about Trimboli before indicating his interest to recruit the youngster for the national team.

Meantime Arok's assistant in Victoria, former South Melbourne coach John Margaritis, flies to Adelaide on Wednesday to watch Adelaide City's key players Charlie Villani, Joe Mullen and Aureliou Vidmar.

Margaritis told ASW: "Arok is keen to monitor the performance of these players, who are likely to be called for National team preparations for the coming international games."

### STATE LEAGUE

## ST ALBANS SUPPLIES STARK LESSON

BY PHIL DIAMATARIS

ST ALBANS proved too strong for newcomers Oakleigh and handed the Greek-backed side a lesson in Soccer.

The team played as it liked once it overcame an early setback when Irvine put Oakleigh ahead after only 10 minutes.

Minutes later Runje levelled the scores.

Controversy raged at half-time as, just before the whistle, Oakleigh half-back Emil Pahljina blatantly handled the ball in the penalty area, with the only person on the ground not seeing it being the referee.

After the break St Albans ran rampant with

Morovic netting twice and Runje adding to his first, giving St Albans a great start to the 1987 season.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Dragovic (Bacic), Krajacic, Ramljak, Colina, Duzel, Batinovic, Culina, Rasticic, Morovic, Runje.

OAKLEIGH: Vafidas, Kakantonis, Pahljina, Tassiopoulos, Stojinovic, Gourlias, Ross, Gusic, Politis, Paparas (Gusic), Irvine (Laletas).

The remainder of the games brought some unexpected results, none more so than Broadmeadows' effort.

The newly-promoted side took both points from last year's champions Croydon with a stubborn performance.

Green Gully's new signing Danny Zemunik paid back part of his modest \$350 transfer fee when he scored the winner in their tough encounter with Box Hill.

Maribyrnong powered past a hapless Western Suburbs and pressed the point that the Polish team will be a force this year.

As for Wests 1987 looks like being quite long — that is if coach Jimmy Condlis doesn't go shopping.

Pines held them out against Springvale to force a goalless draw, proving that the players who are still at the club after the off-season turmoil are too proud to be treated as the poor sister of the League.

The AIS gave the strong Morwell side a shock with a fine draw, considering Morwell's home advantage and experience.

These challenge matches will get more attention as the season goes on as the AIS will shock quite a few more sides this year.

### STATE LEAGUE R1 RESULTS

St Albans 4 (Runje 2, Morovic 2), Oakleigh 1 (Irvine), Caulfield 0, Thomastown 1 (Temos), Frankston Pines 0, Springvale 0, Western Suburbs 0, Maribyrnong 3, (Waseski, Storm, o.g.), Broadmeadows 1 (Liberto), Croydon 0, Fawkner 2 (Cuzzella, Palinkas), Northcote 0, Box Hill 0, Green Gully 1 (Zemunik), Morwell 1 (Cassar), AIS 1 (Marcini).

### VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE

St Albans	1	—	—	4	1	2
Maribyrnong	1	—	—	3	0	2
Fawkner	1	—	—	2	0	2
Green Gully	1	—	—	1	0	2
Thomastown	1	—	—	1	0	2
Broadmeadows	1	—	—	1	0	2
Frankston	—	1	—	0	0	1
Springvale	—	1	—	0	0	1
Croydon	—	—	1	0	1	—
Caulfield	—	—	1	0	1	—
Box Hill	—	—	1	0	1	—
Northcote	—	—	1	0	2	—
West Suburbs	—	—	1	0	3	—
Oakleigh	—	—	1	1	4	—
Morwell	—	—	—	—	—	—
(AIS no points)						



JOHN COLLAR and MARTIN BURDEN with coach Ken Morton.

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# The Victorian Newsreel

## Reputation for producing stars

### BOX HILL ISSUES A CHALLENGE

**BOX HILL'S** shock 4-1 victory over 1986 NSL glamour team Footscray JUST in last weekend's final round of the Buffalo Gold Cup has made most teams in the State League stand up and take notice.

In earlier issues I discussed Box Hill's tendency to lean towards youth and that this year's side was shaping up well with a good balance of youth with experience, and that the experience comes from players who have been at the club since their youth days.

Box Hill of recent times has produced players for various NSL clubs to utilise of the calibre of Scott Patterson, Steve Smith, Laurie McKinna, Mike Valentine, Richard Miranda, Ian Roodhouse and the list goes on. With a group of quality players like that, if Box Hill was in the NSL it would more than hold its own.

The 1987 season has started well for Box Hill

but with the precedent set in the Buffalo Cup series, they will be given plenty of attention by opposition sides. This is the type of respect only top teams get.

BY PHIL DIAMATARIS

Word is already out that star forward Phil Griffin was signed by Caulfield City and that St Albans is looking at Dean Hennessy, an exceptional defender to replace the retired Zenko Brkljaciz. So the attention Box Hill will receive will not only be restricted to the field — clubs at all levels will use Box Hill as a supermarket for talent.

This won't hold Box Hill down as all good

teams have depth and the club definitely has some talented youth.

#### McLeod Strikes

Late changes on the transfer market involving State League teams are headed by the bargain \$350 signing of Caulfield City's super scorer Danny Zemunik. The ex-Melbourne Croatia youth player who has scored nearly 35 times in two seasons was pounced on by Green Gully's shrewd coach Gus McLeod when a loophole was discovered in Zemunik's contract at Caulfield.

Not everything has gone Green Gully's way though, as contract problems have created a unique situation. Green Gully's ex-Glasgow Rangers forward Scott Frazer is on the market for \$9000 after his fee was reduced by Gully from \$25,000.

The reason was that

Frazer's contract was made whilst the club was in the NSL and the payments were scaled for NSL standards. Green Gully, now in the State League, cannot afford to honor their side of the bargain and knocked down the transfer fee, so that Fraser's cost will not scare off any potential buyers, as well as deter any sticky situations with Fraser.

Already Melbourne Croatia, Heidelberg, Preston Makedonia and Footscray JUST have shown interest in obtaining the skilful player.

Down in Morwell, Ian Stirton is about to welcome his ex-striking partner Stan Webster into the team. Frankston relinquished Websters services for \$3000. Morwell has now built a very strong forward line.



MIKE VALENTINE . . . in action.

### ALLISON SPARKS REVIVAL AT ST KILDA

WHILST on my travels last week I bumped into one of my ex-coaches and one of Victoria's finest ever junior coaches - Bill Allison.

BY PHIL DIAMATARIS

Since giving away junior coaching, where he built strong teams at Melbourne and for the Victorian representative sides, he is continuing as a senior coach.

He was in charge of the now defunct St Kilda Hakoah but was uncer-

moniously dumped when South Melbourne Hellas flexed its muscle and bought out one of Victorian Soccer's pioneers.

Since then Bill has been quietly building a strong team in the lower depths of Victorian Soccer and the revival of St Kilda is full steam ahead.

In 1986 Bill, with all his knowledge, experience and direction, guided the team to the championship.

This year Bill is sure of a similar occurrence as he is very confident that, with the depth of talent and skill together with the spirit the team, there won't be a side in the Third Division of the Provisional League to stop St Kilda.

On top of this Bill runs his very successful business, Allison Sports.

With all his background as a coach he is perfect to talk to regarding selection of boots or gear in general. Soccer is his specialty, but has a

wide variety of sporting equipment.

Bill, located at 355 Centre Rd, Bentleigh, will advise you in all facets and can also guide you by giving you tips on playing or fitness, not to mention a very competitive price on all goods.

### OAKLEIGH IS UPHILL IN STATE OPENER

**OAKLEIGH**, playing their first game at home in the State League, meet a strong Fawkner outfit. This game will be close, as Oakleigh does have an excellent home ground record but Fawkner should take both points.

Northcote plays host to Frankston Pines and should win as the Northcote squad is more settled than the troubled Frankston team.

Meanwhile Morwell, with a the combination of Casar, Stirton and Webster in the forward line, should prove an awesome hurdle for Western Suburbs to clear.

Green Gully will be too strong for Broadmeadows and the Croydon v St Albans clash will prove the match of the round with a draw very likely.

Springvale and Caulfield also look likely to fight out a tough game with a draw, while Thomastown plays host to the AIS in their exhibition match.

Box Hill visits Polonia and look the goods for another win.

## Victorian State League

#### ROUND TWO SATURDAY MARCH 14th 1987

Oakleigh	v Fawkner
Northcote City	v Frankston Pines
Morwell Falcons	v Western Suburbs

#### SUNDAY MARCH 15th 1987

Green Gully	v Broadmeadows
Croydon City	v St Albans
Springvale City	v Caulfield City
Thomastown	v AIS
Maribyrnong	v Box Hill

#### COACHES, PLAYERS REQUIRED?

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# CHIT CHAT - Behind the scene at your club



GEORGE KULSCAR, the Australian Youth team defender, has found a niche at St George. He also spent a period at the Australian Institute of Sport.



ONE well known West End Soccer League club has a coaching problem before the start of the season. It seems that the management realises now that a good disciplinarian is essential if their aspirations are to be realised.

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## ACCOMODATION WANTED FOR YOUNG PLAYER

Former Newcastle junior seeks near city lodgings in Sydney with other players.

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WOLLONGONG City supporters were pleased to hear former youth squad player John Brown recently signed with Scottish club Motherwell.

Brown is playing regularly in Scotland and will be there until the end of the UK season.

The experience he gains there will be of value to the Wolves if he decides to seek a clearance to play while he is "holidaying" at home.

Brown was in Les Scheinflug's original national youth squad selected last year for the Oceania play-offs but left out of the final squad.

A former State schools and junior representative, the Coledale youngster has always had a lot of skill and no doubt will have improved this aspect of his play even more in Scotland.

ASF president Sir Arthur George's days in his ASF chairmanship role have not all that long to go, according to some scribes.

One claims the latest betting on who will replace him next year are:

Frank Lowy evens, Jack Reilly 2-1, Charlie Perkins 5-2, John Constantine 8-1, Sam Papasavas 20-1.



SIR ARTHUR GEORGE



JOHN CONSTANTINE



CHARLES PERKINS

Goalkeeper Rodney Tattam in training with Hobart's Croatia-Glenorchy.

THE Queensland Soccer Federation received more than 20 replies to its advertisement seeking "a bright person" to market the code in Queensland. It is understood interviews will start soon, although it is still uncertain whether the position will be full or part-time nor has it been announced just when the new marketing man will start. The right time obviously would be as soon as possible and before the season proper starts.

ADELAIDE City could have an overseas player signed and sealed this week.

The Australian champions expect a telex confirming that a player from Europe has accepted terms and will be there in time for the start of the national season on March 29.

Meanwhile, City's main sponsors, Fairmont Homes, has again agreed to build the club a luxury home which will be sold, auctioned or be the main prize in a lottery, as a major fundraiser.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC is making sure that its defence won't be let down when the League gets under way. MIKE COADY and MARTYN ROGERS will be back from England once again and they are two very handy operators.

THE Queensland Soccer Federation has officially rejected a proposal put forward by a private promoter for the Maroons to play touring English First Division side Nottingham Forest. It is understood the QSF would have been faced with costs approaching \$30,000 — and the management committee felt that was too much to risk for a mid-week night game.

"When would we be left if it rained?" said QSF secretary Alan Vessey in confirming the proposed match would not proceed.

But the QSF could have a major announcement in relation to representative games in the very near future.

A big move is on to stop Sunday Soccer among youngsters, so they can watch the "big boys" in the West End National League.

The biggest stir is coming from Melbourne, but if they look at Adelaide they will find it makes no difference.

No State League games are played on Sundays in South Australia and youngsters not connected with national clubs stay away in droves.

And it is significant that those attached to State League teams often leave the grounds after their game, or if they are not playing take off on other pursuits.

THE restructuring of the NSW Soccer Federation and the retirement of former secretary Aulden Brown is thwarting Queensland's bid to organise the annual interstate clash between the Maroons and the Blues — or at least that is the official reason at the moment. Some though have suggested that NSW is not keen to play the Queenslanders this year and is more interested in a game against Victoria.

QUEENSLAND Soccer Federation president and Australian Soccer Federation senior vice-president Ian Brusasco could be the next Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Brusasco is among the favorites to gain the nod as the Labor Party candidate for the position. But with the Liberal Party's Sallyanne Atkinson firmly entrenched as Brisbane's No.1, particularly after her high profile Olympic campaign last year, Brusasco could face one of his toughest battles yet. And after 25 years of Soccer, that's saying something!

## CENTRAL NSW WOMEN'S SOCCER FEDERATION

requires

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Enquiries may be addressed in writing to the Secretary, P.O. Box 783, Liverpool 2170.

Phone enquiries to

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CLOSING DATE FRI MARCH 20

HE says he isn't that old but the experienced Phil Kerr has signed with Wollongong Macedonia for the new season.

Coach John Frew says Kerr will be a big asset to him at a time when he needs all the experience he can get.

Kerr is a product of the Corrimal club and was in the Wollongong City youth squad when the club entered the NSL in 1981.

He had several outings in the senior side as a midfielder or full-back and last season did well in the State League with Fairy Meadow Italia.

While Kerr solves one problem for Frew the Macedonia coach desperately needs more firepower up front.

"We will have to rely a lot on our midfield being defensive rather than creative unless I can sign one more striker capable of getting about 16 goals during the season," Frew said.



PHIL KERR

VICENTE ESTAVILIO, recently sacked by his club, Sydney Olympic, has been approached by Canterbury Marrickville Olympic to take over as player-coach from recently resigned Dom Kapetanovic.

John Watkiss, Raul Blanco and Estavilio are leading contenders for the position.

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BEACH FASHIONS' general manager Steve Kousspakidis.



Models Julie-Ellen York, Michelle Douglas and Lisa Luchetti with NSL executive director STEFAN KAMASZ, West End's national marketing manager JOHN GRAHAM and Beach Fashion's managing director PETER SFIKAS.

## BEACH FASHIONS' \$250,000 FOR CUP

BEACH FASHIONS, one of Australia's leading fashion-styled swimsuit manufacturers, have pledged a cash sponsorship of over \$250,000 for the next three seasons to the National Soccer League for the Cup.

At a special Press launch Dinner at the Sydney seafood nightspot, "Le Sands", Mr Peter Skifas, managing director of Beach Fashions, told ASW:

"This is not the first time I have been involved with Soccer.

"Two years ago, my company was Sydney Olympic's major sponsor.

"I have played Soccer and I have always loved and gone to watch the games.

"This is my way of trying to help Soccer

grow.

"All sports are being aided in some way to foster their growth and my company's sponsorship is one such contribution."

At the lavishly staged dinner, nothing was left to be desired in more ways than one.

The Directors of Beach Fashions entertained the guests with a glittering parade of stunning, sun-tanned models, wearing the latest designs for the 1987-88 summer, styled and manufactured by Beach Fashions.

The vivacious blondes, clad in a wide range of bikinis and one piece swim-suits, weaved their way through the tables of the Le Sands Restaurant.

Their progress was closely monitored by the members of the Soccer Press as the SBS television cameras whirled away.

The Beach Fashions Soccer Cup kicks off on

April 8 and will be played every Wednesday night over nine weeks, culminating in the Cup Final.

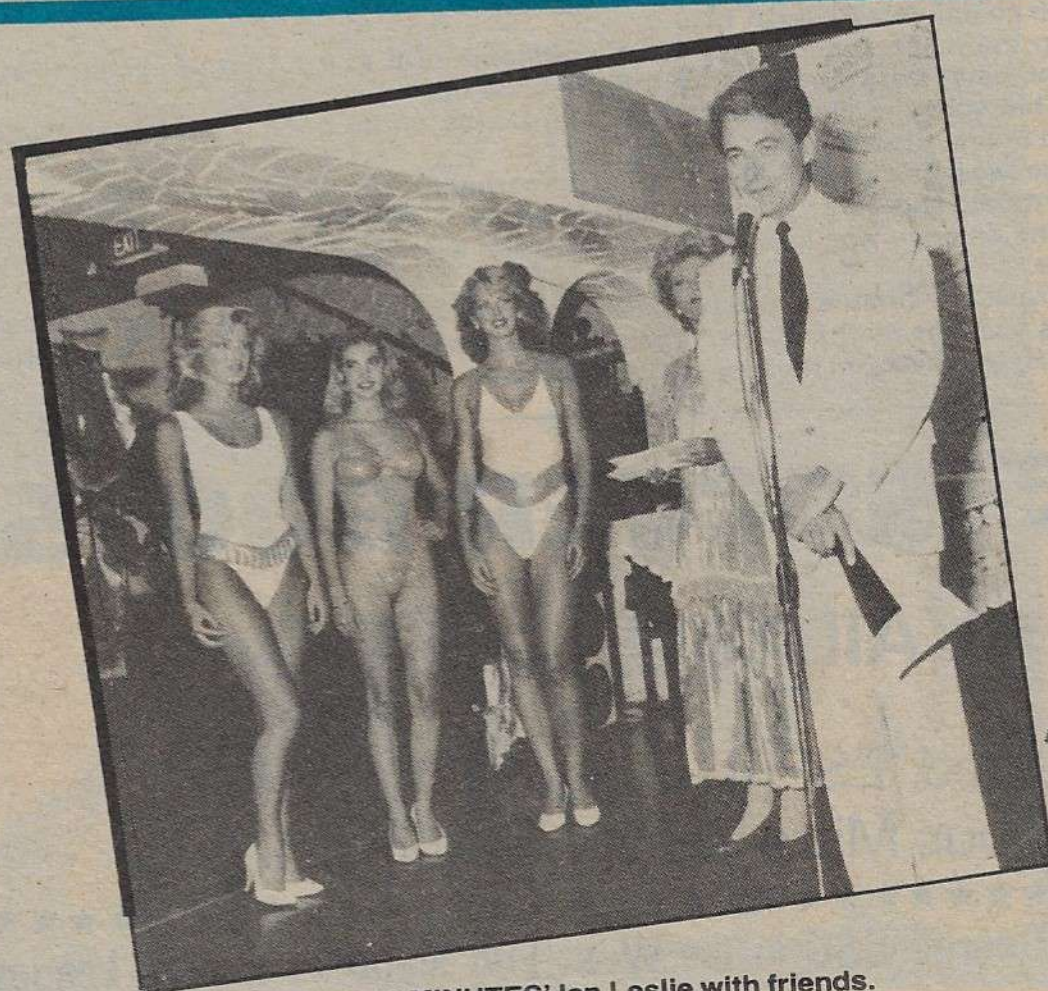
Prize-mones in the "Beach Fashions Soccer Cup" will add up to some \$63,000, with the eventual Cup winner grabbing a cheque for \$21,000.

The draw for Round 1 of the Cup will be made live on SBS-TV's programme, "On The Ball", screened on Saturday noon.

Commencing in August, Beach Fashions will back up their Cup sponsorship with a heavy television advertising campaign.

The Beach Fashions commercials will screen their attractive models frolicking in the surf wearing the latest styled swimsuits.

JOHN ECONOMOS



60 MINUTES' Ian Leslie with friends.





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# The Nationwide Round-up



## CHAMPIONS ADELAIDE CITY GO GOAL DIGGING ACROSS IN WEST

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BY TOM MCKAIN

AUSTRALIAN champion Adelaide City is turning to Western Australia for possible recruits as it warms up for the new West End National League.

Any player who impresses coach Zoran Matic during a four-team tournament in Perth involving City, Azzurri, East Fremantle, Tricolore and Spearwood Dalmatinac, will be offered a trial with the South Australian club.

And Matic already has a list from former City captain Gary Marocchi, who returned to Perth four years ago, and is the

organiser of the tournament which will be played on Friday, March 20, and Sunday March 22.

"We are following every lead for players," said Matic.

"But we are not spending big money, because we simply don't have it.

And with our debts almost wiped out we don't intend to run up any more bills."

The coach is treating the Perth trip as a major



JOE MULLEN . . . stayed with Ad. City.

workout in his preparation for the national season.

"We have not been pushed in the SA Ampol Cup series, and badly need hard games," said Matic.

"As Australian champions, and Perth not having had a National League side, we expect the Western Australian players to hit us with everything.

"That will suit us, and if any of their players proves he has what it takes to make the big time then we will go after him."

Socceroo Robbie Dunn moved from Perth to Adelaide as did

another former City player in David Jones.

"If we can find another Marocchi, Dunn or Jones the trip will have been worthwhile," said Matic.

#### Pacific

Before the Western Australian venture, City takes on New Zealand champions Mount Wellington at Hindmarsh Stadium on March 15.

Matic has announced a novel investment plan for City supporters.

He is asking them to put up the money to buy players.

"But we are not looking for superstars," he stressed.

"We want young players with potential who will increase in value.

"Take Socceroo striker Steve Maxwell. We bought him for \$500 and sold him to Marconi for \$25,000.

"So we will miss him, but we feel we already have a replacement in Paul Wilde, and Tim Mullen is looking as if he will become as good as brother Joe in our attack."

#### Dividend

Any supporters joining the scheme would share in the profits when the players are sold.

"Many of the smaller clubs in other countries

ZORAN MATIC . . . seeks youngsters.



survive by selling players and there is no reason why we cannot do the same without losing our edge on the field," said Matic.

"It's just a matter of being able to spot raw talent and helping it to develop."

Matic's methods are in sharp contrast to Melbourne Croatia who have already bought seven players, and are still seeking a clearance for a eighth - Adelaide Hellas allrounder Alan Scott.

The only players Matic has lost is Maxwell, but feelers went out for Joe

Mullen, Charlie Villani and Socceroo Sergio Melta.

Fortunately they agreed to stay on for the first year of the new West End League.

But what happens at the end of 1987?

"We are not saying we will win the championship, but we will do enough to retain our stars, and if some want to go we will make another profit, and rebuild again," is the confident Matic's reply.

"At this stage all I am predicting is a place in the top five."



SERGIO MELTA

### MELTA IS WATCHED

SOCCEROO coach Frank Arok won't make it to the South Australian Ampol Cup final this week because of the NSW club tournament, but he will get a report on potential national players.

He has asked his Melbourne-based assistant, John Margaritis, to take in the Adelaide match, with particular emphasis on the form of City midfielder Sergio Melta.

Team-mates Joe Mullen, Charlie Villani and goalkeeper Willie McNally are on Arok's "possible" list, as is Hellas Youth Socceroo Lou Hristodoulou.

Arok has also asked City coach Zoran Matic and Hellas boss Peter Jaksa to report on players along with SA State coaching director Mike Wells, who is Arok's SA representative.

— TOM MCKAIN



CHARLIE VILLANI . . . big season.

## KEEPING THE PACE WITH PALACIOS

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THERE's no respite for anyone at Canberra City Olympians these days.

NSW State Bank League coach Augusto Palacios has introduced a military-style regimen for the first teamers with five training sessions a week — and he has an eager disciple in his ACT Senior League counterpart, Jimmy Tsiokos.

Tsiokos was quick to dispel any idea that playing in the lower grade would be a rest cure from the Penuvian's pace.

"My first aim is to get everyone fit," he said during a short break in a rugged training session recently.

"Only when that is done will I think about more ball work and maybe a couple of friendly games."

"And he made it clear that his aim was to restore the club to the place in the

top-four Ampol Cup competition it lost CCAE last season.

"I still need some additions to the squad, but will make a final choice after Augusto decides who he wants in the NSW League."

"A couple more experienced players and we should do very well."

With a general youthful squad, a lot will depend on last season's regulars, Willie Stirto, Steve Holgate and Peter Thompson, especially Thompson, team captain and one of the most experienced players in the competition.

A major gain has been the re-signing of Rob Heidemanns after two years with Inter Marano's youth side.

The former Majura youngster and ACT junior representative is almost certain to be regular in the senior league team.



# "Croatia and Belconnen within reach" PERKINS THROWS OUT BAIT TO CANBERRA AND MONARO

THE new president of the ACT Soccer Federation, Charles Perkins, wants Canberra City Olympians and Inter Monaro to withdraw from the NSW State Bank League and return to the ACT competition.

## THE ACT UPDATE

BY GRAHAM COOKE

In return, he will work through the Australian Soccer Federation to ensure the ACT League joins its counterparts in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia as a feeder to the NSL.

The proposal was one of a series of points he outlined for the revitalisation of Soccer in the Canberra area.

"Under the present system we are pouring money and effort into

NSW," he said. "Our local sides will have to get past 12 other teams which will kick them to death all season.

"To get back into the NSL they will have to win the competition — I do not think either of them can do that.

"Under the system I propose an ACT club will be involved in the last stages of NSL promotion every season.

"And what a boost this would be to the ACT League. Suddenly, ambitious clubs like Croatia Deakin and Belconnen United will be within reach of the top competition.

"This would bring in

sponsorship, raise attendances, increase media interest. It would revitalise the code in one fell swoop."

## Huge Target

He also announced a target of 30,000 registered players in the Territory by the end of 1988 — triple the present number — and a move towards more interstate matches, with the ACT playing NSW and Victoria.

"And it would be a full ACT side with the best players available, not just drawn from the local leagues, as has been the case in the past.

"We have already upgraded the efficiency of our administration with the employment of an

assistant for the federation's executive director, Mark Brogan, and the computerisation of our records," he said. "And we are going to have to streamline that administration. There are too many committees meeting too frequently for too long."

Discussions were needed with all branches of the code — seniors, juniors, women, Public Service, church and indoor — in an effort to create an umbrella organisation where there would be cross-fertilisation of ideas without groups losing their identities.

"I am well aware that Soccer does not have a good image, and that some people in the game have become discouraged," he said. "That is a juvenile attitude. We have an exciting, artistic

game to promote, a game which is played in every country on earth, and it is our duty to restore its pride in Canberra."

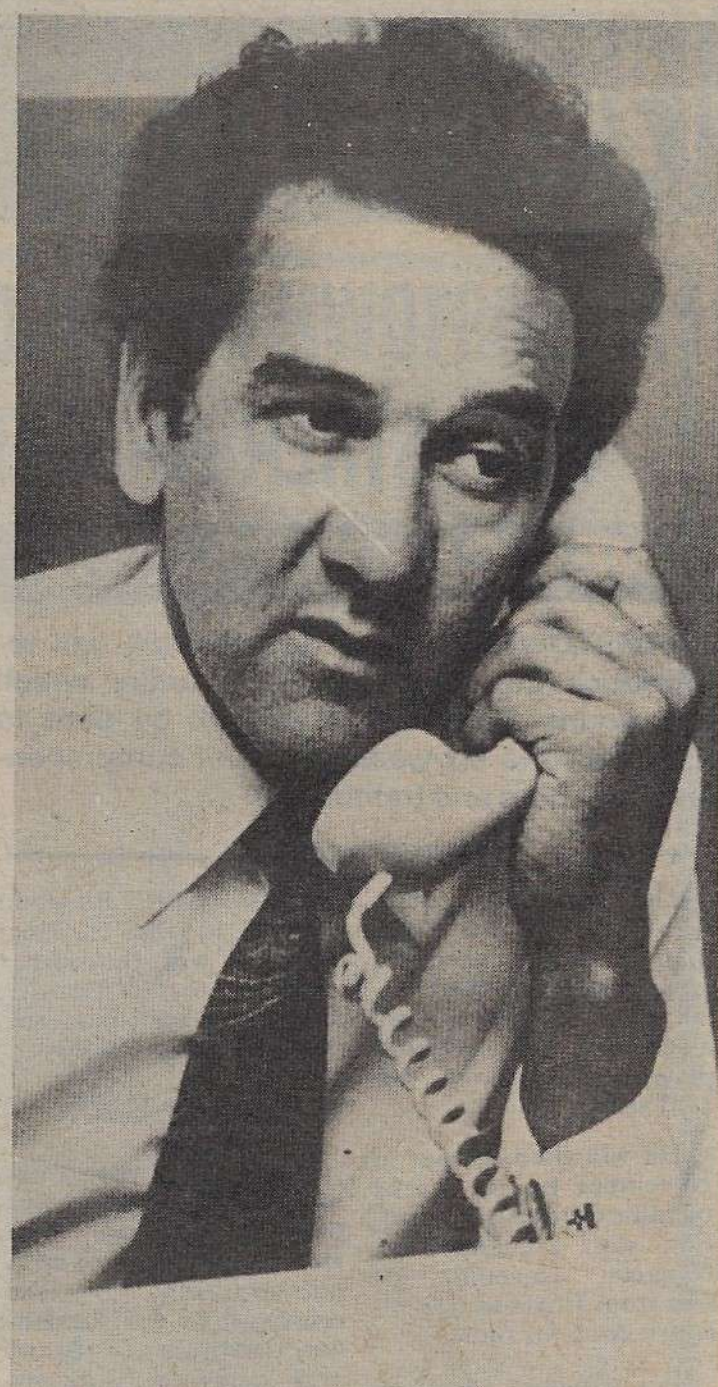
## UPDATE BRIEFS

NSL referees' pay this year has been increased to \$150 from \$110. Linesmen will receive \$60.

In the NSW State League the figures are \$75 and \$40 respectively.

\*\*\*

The question of NSL Summer Soccer has been shelved pending detailed submissions from interested clubs.



CHARLES PERKINS... new broom.

## CANBERRA

## ACT CUP DRAW

THE draw for the first round of the ACT Federation Cup, open to all senior clubs, is as follows:

International v Italiano-Australian Club, Narrabundah v HAC Hawks, ANL v Belconnen, Tuggeranong United v North Canberra Jets, Weston Creek v Wanderers, Canberra City v Latin America, ADFA v Shadows, Concordia Canberra v Goulburn, Queanbeyan v Dickson Old Boys, Condors v Belconnen United v RMC, byes, Croatia Deakin, CCAE, Juventus, Belconnen United, Canberra City Olympians. (Matches to be played April 5).

First round, Viscount Shield (restricted to teams in third division and below):

Weston Creek (6th div) v North Canberra Jets (6th), Belconnen United B (6th) v RMC (6th), Tuggeranong United (6th) v ADFA A (6th), Canberra City (5th) v Belconnen (6th), CCAE (5th) v ANU (5th), Latin America (6th), v Dickson Old Boys (5th), ADFA B (4th) v Tuggeranong United (5th), Goulburn (5th) v ADFA A (4th), RMC (4th) v RMC (6th), ANU (6th) v Wanderers (5th), Belconnen United A (6th) v Tuggeranong United (4th), byes, ANU (3rd), Canberra City (3rd), CCAE (3rd), Belconnen United (4th), Tuggeranong United (3rd). (Matches played April 4).

First round, Viscount Cup (reserve teams at first and second division sides):

Belconnen United v Weston Creek, International v Canberra City Olympians, Croatia Deakin v Narrabundah, Condors v ADFA, Tuggeranong United v ANU, Canberra United v Canberra City, Queanbeyan v Juventus, Concordia v CCAE. (Matches played April 5).

## ACT SOCCER ON THE AIR

ACT Soccer took to the airwaves on Friday with a weekly 15-minutes show on the Canberra sports network, 2SS-FM.

Titled Soccer Round-up, the show, broadcast from 6.30 to 6.45pm, will contain news of all aspects of the Soccer scene, including the NSW State Bank League, and ACT senior, junior, women's indoor and representative competitions.

SBS Soccer presenter Les Murray will contribute an item on the NSL, and overseas reports will be included if time permits.

The show's host is Steve Doszpot, with special interviews by Peter Windsor.

Doszpot said last week that Soccer Round-up is "just one more link in an overall plan to re-establish Soccer as a major sport in Canberra".

# PHIL TORPY AT WITS END OVER ILLAWARRA LATEST REFEREES CRISIS

A CHAOTIC situation is looming in Illawarra Soccer with the news there are only 20 active referees enlisted for the start of what will be a hectic season.

## DRIVE FOR RECRUITS

BY PHIL MURPHY

Resignations and decisions by referees to try to better themselves in Sydney leave clubs resigned to appointing their own officials to run lines and in some second division games take over in the middle.

Referees spokesman Phil Torpy said his association is desperate to recruit new members and have started courses over a five-week period at both Balgownie and Albion Park.

He appealed to ex-players to contact him if they are interested in refereeing.

With an extra club coming into second division this season, there are 36 clubs in the three divisions — 12 in Premier League and the same number in first and second divisions.

Premier League and first division run three teams with second division clubs having two.

This means there will be 48 games every weekend, most of them on Saturdays.

Torpy said some referees are critical of the ISA for increasing the number of clubs yet again.

"This season the shortage of referees is really going to be a problem as there is also the Bampton Cup and Youth Cup to be added to the normal league programme," he said.

## Van Geest signs

New Unanderra coach Ron Sattin is hoping representative cricketer Peter van Geest will solve a big problem in his defence this season.

A fast bowler and captain of the Port Kembla cricket team, Van Geest returned to Soccer last year with Unanderra after a break of four seasons.

He played centre-half and earned the players' player of the year trophy.

His job will be to slot in to a defence which looks very bare with the departure of both central defenders Paul Meares and Darren Galway to Fairy Meadow.

Sattin has signed his brother, Harry, from Wollongong Macedonia to play in midfield, with the talented George Bailey to play a central midfield role.

It is Sattin's first senior coaching assignment and he said he feels he has some very good young players ready to be blooded in the top team.

## Croatia Myth

South Coast Croatia have come up with a welcome windfall from four of their supporters.

Geoff Reynolds Roofing Inn, Unanderra Hotel and Petrovic Bros have combined to hand over \$10,000 and it will be

used to improve the club's home ground, Ian McLennan Park.

Secretary Ivan Spanicek said the fence around the playing area is almost complete and the floodlights will be improved.

He hit out at the "myth" that Croatia are rolling in money and pay their players exorbitant match fees.

"I had most of the top players in Premier League on the phone before we started training, wanting to know if we wanted them and how much would we pay them," Spanicek said.

"Someone must be spreading the word we are printing out own money the way these players were talking."

## Corrimal Builds

Among the reinforcements Corrimal have signed for the new season are Ian Lancaster, Robert Chipperfield and Chris Woods.

Lancaster should be a big asset in the defence after showing up with Fairy Meadow last year.

Chipperfield was formerly with Bellambi and struck fame when he was 17 when he scored five goals in one first grade game.

Woods was on the verge of first grade with the undefeated Bulli team last season and should do a good job for Corrimal at right full-back.

## Greathead's turnabout

Talented utility player Nicky Greathead has surprised by signing with South Coast Croatia — two days

after Aris said he has decided to stay with them.

Aris, who have lost the backbone of last season's team to Port Kembla with the move of coach Robert Fryer to that club, were confident Greathead would stay.

Secretary Paul Mahanidis said he was shocked when the player said he was going to Croatia.

Now coached by Alec Fleming, Aris are certain to struggle against some of the stronger clubs but they have managed to sign Ray Farrell who was formerly a winger with Tarravanna, Wollongong City and Bellambi.

## Allfab \$1000

The annual Allfab-Shellharbour night knockout started last week and will run over three Thursday nights at Barrack Heights Oval.

Organisers had a slight hitch before it got off the ground, South Coast Croatia being replaced by second division newcomers Portside.

It seems Croatia were told "not to attend" after an incident which followed a trial match between Shellharbour and Croatia at the same ground.

Croatia had a player sent off and after a very rough match there was a disturbance in the referee's room.

The four teams now contesting the round robin series are last season's winner Port Kembla, Shellharbour, Aris and Portside.

The \$1000 series is run on a first past the post basis with two games

played each night.

## Leagues KO

Fernhill coach Gerry Walker set a great example for his strikers on the opening day of the Corrimal Leagues Club knockout.

In addition to coaching his club team, Walker donned the boots and played in midfield for guest club Corrimal Leagues.

Playing in the last game of the day Walker scored a gem of a goal against University and all his Fernhill players were on hand to see it.

The Leagues Club team did well to qualify for the final 16 even though some of their players do most of their training in the members' bar at the club.

## Over Bar

Bulli won't be deterred by the simple problem of not having a ground to play trials on.

The Illawarra champions had no ground to play Maroubra on so sought the help of sponsor club Thirroul Leagues.

The outcome was the game being played on the rugby league ground adjacent to the club but the snag was that the rugby league posts couldn't be moved.

Some of the players found it hard to get used to but the outcome was a very useful workout for both clubs and a 1-0 win to Bulli.

Both teams were guilty of several "conversions" which should have been directed below the crossbar.





# The State League Story

## ADAMSTOWN ROSEBUD FLOWERS WITH STRENGTHENED SQUAD

### NEWCASTLE NEWS

ADAMSTOWN Rosebud Soccer Club will re-introduce this year a scheme under which one young Rosebud player will be sent to England for a six-week period of comprehensive coaching and training.

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

The lucky youngster, who must be no older than 17, will be chosen by a panel of three, who will make their selection after assessing the eligible players throughout the 1987 season.

He will then set out in November for six weeks of all-expenses-paid tuition with Queens Park Rangers, travelling to and from England free by courtesy of Air India.

The Rosebud club last sent players to the UK three years ago, when Neil Owens and Ian Chapman spent six weeks with Sunderland.

Owens, after excelling

with Newcastle Rosebud United in the National League, was transferred recently to St George; Chapman has since suffered a bad knee injury.

### Power Back

One player who missed being chosen for the Sunderland visit was Sean Ingham, who subsequently was admitted to the Australian Institute of Sport and showed outstanding form last year with Newcastle Rosebud United.

Ingham, who has been sought by Eddie Thomson to join Sydney City,

recently had his transfer fee reduced on appeal from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

Meanwhile, Adamstown Rosebud has secured the services of Neville Power as captain-coach for the coming season.

Power has rejoined Rosebuds after two outstanding seasons with Belmont-Swansea United and will lead the club's challenge for honours this season in the State First Division.

Rosebuds have also signed midfielder Brett Gemmell from Highfields Azzurri and the robust young striker, David Bock, from Wallsend.

Midfielder Gavin McDonald will also resume with the club after his stay at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Rosebuds secretary Pat Clarke said that the only player missing from last year's squad would be midfielder-fullback

Andy Thomson, who has transferred to Austral United.

## NEWCASTLE'S DAYS OF GLORY

### THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIENDS

WHEN Newcastle first entered the National Soccer League in 1978, crowds of over 15000 were recorded at the International Sports Centre.

In fact the average 10,000 attendance made Newcastle KB United the third highest drawing club of any code in NSW.

The efficiency of the organisation masterminded by Newcastle solicitor Paul Trisley had to be seen to be believed. There has never been anything to touch it in Australia before or since.

NBN3 promoted the games and all went well.

Except, unfortunately, that there was a shortfall in income.

Members of the Centre's licensed club received free admission and the Soccer Club received nothing from the licensed club.

After such a glorious beginning attendances fell away and Newcastle is now back in the NSW State Bank League.

The City of Newcastle and the Hunter Region has a proud Soccer history... will there again be the leadership to restore their fortunes?

PICTURED is a squad that included Col Curran, Craig Mason, Arno Bertogna, Peter Tredinnick, Joe Senkalski, Graham Heys and Roy Drinkwater.



EDDIE THOMSON... obtained Sean Ingham.

## CHELSEA NO LONGER A 'FULL MEMBER'

FIGHTING to hold their place in the English First Division, Chelsea suffered a double blow last Wednesday.

They were tumbled out of the Full Members Cup, which they held from last season.

In addition Scottish international striker David Speedie is out with a thigh injury, which compounds their troubles.

Chelsea lost out 3-0 to

Blackburn Rovers, who have not been travelling well in Second Division.

An early second half burst brought Blackburn goals from Sean Curry, Simon Garner and Dan Miller.

They earned a semi-final game against Ipswich Town.

In another Cup game Charlton Athletic had an extra-time win over Everton.

The score was 2-2 and 6-5 on penalties.

# NEWCASTLE KB UNITED

AS SEEN BY

JOE TRAFFY



- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. BRETT COWBURN      | 12. ARNO BERTOGNA    |
| 2. COL CURRAN         | 13. PETER TREDINNICK |
| 3. MARK TRENTER       | 14. PHIL DANDO       |
| 4. CRAIG MASON        | 15. DAVID KAMASZ     |
| 5. MALCOLM MCCLELLAND | 16. JOE SENKALSKI    |
| 6. PAUL REANEY        | 17. GRAHAM HEYS      |
| 7. BILL SUMMERS       | 18. DAVID DEAKIN     |
| 8. DAVID JONES        | 19. FRANK CAMPBELL   |
| 9. JOHN SNEDDON       | 20. PAUL BURROWS     |
| 10. ALAN VEST         | 21. ROY DRINKWATER   |
| 11. JIMMY PRESTON     |                      |



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# JOHNNY WATKISS — WILL HE RETURN BACK HOME?

JOHNNY WATKISS, arguably Australia's best ever locally produced Soccer international, could very easily over the next week or two be "returning home" after an absence of some 26 years.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Watkins, the magnificent triple-World Cup campaigner, is desperately being sought by NSW State League club, Canterbury Marrickville Olympic.

The champion international, who to date is the only player to have played for Australia as a striker, midfielder and centre-back, in the early 50s was one of the most famous of the "Canterbury Babes", then coached by that most loveable man, the late "Uncle Joe" Vlasits.

The giant striker-midfielder moved to APIA and later to Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs before finishing his playing career with State League side, Sutherland.

Three years ago, Watkins retired from coaching the Sutherland side to concentrate on his business.

"I am surprised to receive an offer from Canterbury in their hour of

need, but if they are in real trouble I will help them out in some way," the magnificent World Cup player pledged.

The tall, very trim Watkins, who at the age of 46 still looks majestically fit to play, owns and manages his own scrap-metal company.

But Watkins expects to be off overseas next May and June with his wife, Judy and three daughters, Karen, Lara and Heidi.

Late last week, Canterbury's current coach, Dom Kapetanovic, dropped a bombshell on the club by handing in a letter his resignation.

Kapetanovic's sudden departure is said to stem from the fact that his squad from last year has been severely drained.

Another reason he stated to Canterbury is that he wants to return to Yugoslavia.

But our enquiries have

dug out that Croatia from the A.C.T. are almost ready to sign him up on contract.

The good-natured Watkins told us last night: "Jimmy Ronis, Canterbury's secretary, was a good mate of mine many years ago.

"We went to school together. If he is stuck for the moment, I will help him out in some way."

Meanwhile, should Canterbury not be successful in securing Watkins' services, they could be out to recapture Raul Blanco who last coached the club back in 1985 before returning to his home country, Argentina.

Blanco returned to Australia three weeks ago and helped out his mate Les Scheinflug with Blacktown City, whilst he was hospitalised for a small operation.

Blanco is more than ready to dive back into the coaching arena.

## CHELSEA PRODUCES A SURPRISE

MID-TABLE Chelsea dealt high-flying Arsenal a severe blow when they produced a Colin West goal to win 1-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Although still in the hunt to capture the FA Cup, League Cup and league treble, they are behind both Everton and Liverpool on the First Division table.

Serious injury and sus-

pension problems affected Chelsea on the day, but 19 year old Colin West came to their rescue.

An on loan player from Partick Thistle, he made a name for himself with his fifth minute goal.

Liverpool, leaders on Saturday with arch-rivals Everton due to meet Watford away, downed Luton 2-0 with a goal from Jan Molby and a Mal Donaghy own goal.

The win reversed

Liverpool's 2-0 loss to Luton in the FA Cup.

Against Chelsea the Arsenal machine did little to advance their cause to win the league.

Their main chance came and went when midfielder David Rocastle rapped one on the post just before half-time.

In Scotland Glasgow Rangers striker Ally McCoist whipped in two goals in his team's 2-1 win over relegation threatened Falkirk.

The win left Rangers, with a game in hand, just edging out Celtic at the top of the table.



JAN MOLBY

## KIM WISHART OMMITTED FROM BC RETAINED LIST

What a huge boo boo!

RIVAL clubs have been quick to move on Brisbane City's oversight in not retaining former Queensland goalkeeper Kim Wishart, who tragically broke his leg nearly a year ago.

BY GREG RUSSELL

But the 30-year-old

former City NSL custodian has so far rejected all approaches, saying he did not believe his leg was ready to resume playing.

"If I could play, I would. But it doesn't feel right at the moment," said Wishart, who with 13 state appearances is Queensland's most capped keeper.

"I don't want to look down and see my ankle pointing the wrong way

again. I won't even think about playing again until I am confident everything is right."

As a goalkeeper, 30 is not old and Wishart would have years of Soccer ahead if he returned to the game. That makes City's decision not to retain him more baffling and understandably is what a number of clubs, including those from his former home town

Ipswich, have put out feelers.

Wishart said he was quizzed by members of the new City committee late last year, but told them he did not intend to play this season, but his unexpected free agent status came as a complete surprise.

City also did not retain former State captain Frank Pimblett, who left the club for Sydney two years ago.

## WISHART (right), McINTOSH FACE TO FACE

BELOW: Out of the National League archives comes a great photo from a 1977 Philips League between Brisbane City's Kim Wishart and Sydney Olympic's Dave McIntosh.



FRANK PIMBLETT . . . last seen in Sydney.

## BACK FROM NZ TO TASMANIA

CROATIA-Glenorchy has signed goalkeeper Rodney Tattam, 30, from New Zealand club Douglas Villa.

Tattam was originally a Croatia player but he left Tasmania seven years ago and spent time in Western Australia and Victoria before moving to New Zealand in 1984.

He has had spells with North Perth Croatia, East Fremantle Tricolore, St Albans Dinamo and Douglas Villa.



Confrontation. . . Brisbane City goalkeeper, Kim Wishart, (right) and Sydney Olympic's Dave McIntosh let each other know exactly where they stand during a clash in their Philips League game at Perry Park. The incident occurred after Wishart had taken a high ball and was fouled. Wishart immediately stood up and told McIntosh what he thought of the incident. The two players were then separated by teammates. City won the game 2-1 to go into second place on the premiership ladder.



# State League Preview

# BATTLE LINES DRAWN AS STATE

# BANK LEAGUE GEARS UP

IF pre-season results are anything to go by, this year's revamped State Bank League competition promises to be the most exciting and tightly contested for many years.

BY STEPHEN SHELDON

Fourteen teams will be fighting for premiership honors and the ultimate prize which those honours bestow — entry into the National Soccer League in 1988.

Among these teams will be the six Northern Division clubs relegated from the restructured NSL — Blacktown City, Canterbury-Marrickville, Newcastle Rosebud, Wollongong City, Inter-Monaro and Canberra City.

Despite their obvious strengths, these clubs will be stretched by the survivors from last season's State League, particularly Melita, Sutherland, Rockdale, Manly and Ku-ring-gai, while Auburn, Warringah and Wollongong Macedonia will be no pushovers.

A quick survey of club coaches pin-pointed Blacktown (followed by Melita) as the clear title favourite and it is not difficult to see why.

Coached by Les Scheinflug — who has a proven track record of moulding extremely successful teams, particularly as coach of the U/19 Australian youth team — and with a bevy of exciting young players, Demons could be knocking on the NSL's door come springtime.

Although nine of last season's top players have left the club, Blacktown has attracted players of

the calibre of Australia U/19 striker Jason van Blerk, Australian U/19 captain and stopper Kurt Reynolds, ex-Sydney Croatia 'keeper Steve Watson and Newcastle's classy midfielder, Ralph Maier.

Said Scheinflug: "At the moment we're learning match by match, training by training as we attempt to build a new foundation."

"Our strength will be in our youth who have a lot of natural ability, guts, discipline and ambition."

After reaching the semi-final of the pre-season State Bank Cup, Scheinflug said he is "more than happy" with the team's progress. "I'm confident of a good season," he added.

Still riding high and biting at Blacktown's heels will be the premiership holders, Melita, whose attacking flair and effervescent supporters almost guarantee excitement at every match.

Melita has retained its youthful team from last year and bolstered it further with the acquisition of New Zealand national striker, Greg Brown, and the 1986 U/21 player of the year, Anthony Welbourne.

This year, Melita has already defeated NSL

sides St George, Sydney City and Apia-Leichhardt on the way to a semi-final berth in the State League Cup and their form so far as been devastating.

"We're a better team this year than last year," said coach, Dennis Hoggart, "and our results have proved it."

"The boys have settled into a pattern and, while they're still young, there's a new toughness. They'll take no nonsense from anybody."

Hoggart claimed that Melita's strength will lie in its depth, all-round ability and tremendous team spirit.

"We have 16 good players in our squad and we depend on no one player — that's the secret of Melita. And we can attack from any position on the field."

## Harrington

Sutherland will also be relying on virtually the same team which won the 1986 grand-final, with Mark Harrington's seasoned head marshalling a predominantly youthful side.

"With a such a young side, consistency will be our greatest hoodoo," said new coach, Max Groll. "When we're good, we'll be great. But when we're bad, we'll be awful."

Pre-season result have been promising and, said Groll: "If we can overcome the former NSL teams we might go OK. I'd be very happy to finish sixth or better."

Rockdale Ilinden, which last season bristled with attacking venom, could discover the net harder to find following the departure of devastating striker Zlatko Nastevski and co-fininishers, Jimmy Risteovski and Michael Grbevski.

According to coach, Ilija Takac, Rockdale's emphasis will switch to midfield and defence which have been bolstered by several key signings including Vasco Mitrevski and Vlado Tortevski.

"If we can solve our problems up front we will be very competitive", said Takac.

Manly, like Blacktown, has lost nine top players and will be depending on local juniors to fill the vacant positions.

"We'll find life tough but we'll give as good as we get" asserted coach, Alf Stamp.

"We might lack skills but we make up for that with teamwork and commitment. In fact, we'll have to play as a team if we're to do well because we have no real matchwinners."

In contrast, Ku-ring-gai has assembled its strongest squad since joining the State League and could prove to be this season's 'dark horse'.

Although defenders Terry Bertram and Allan Goldsworthy will be sorely missed, in Glenn Jeffreys and Paul Fagan the Northerners have acquired two strikers, who with Craig Bass and Aaron Ferguson, will form the basis of a lethal attacking unit.

Canterbury-Marrickville had a bumpy road to the NSL wooden spoon in 1986 but should find the less frenzied atmosphere of the State League more to its liking.

Nevertheless, the club has been rocked by the loss of over half of its top players, including dynamic midfielder, Peter Zrilic, and, only two weeks ago, coach Dom Kapetanovic.

Canterbury will, therefore, be starting almost from scratch and early results — including a 10-0 drubbing at the hands of Sydney Olympic — would not have inspired confidence.

But club president,



RAY FARRUGIA

## CUP WINNERS CUP TO SYDNEY CITY

SYDNEY CITY had a prestigious 2-0 win over Hanimex North Shore in the first

ever Qantas South Pacific Cup Winners Cup in Auckland on Sunday.

The Slickers, weakened by their closed season losses, did well against a club coached by All Whites coach Kevin Fallon.

Outstanding Young Soccerroo striker Abbas Saad opened the scoring in the 20th minute and midfielder Tommy McCulloch put the result beyond North Shore's reach in the 35th.

The result gives a big fillup to Eddie Thomson's men as they face up to a trying season.



TOMMY McCULLOCH

Jim Ronis, refuses to be fazed. "We'll have no problems with relegation. Our young players are going well and always give 100%".

Wollongong promises to be a top contender and if they do go well as expected then the Saturday night games at Wollongong Showground will be well attended.

Two late starters, Canberra City and Newcastle Rosbud, are beginning to look much better.

They can be relied upon to show up well in the battle for the honours.

## COTTON — A DEMON

FORMER star St George striker Roy Cotton will sign for Blacktown City today (Tuesday) and will be ready for Warringah at the Gabbie on Sunday.

Demons' coach Les Scheinflug said: "Adam Sandy has played up front for us in the State Bank Cup."

"I'm looking forward to combining Roy's ability to run at players with Adam's natural game of holding the ball."

Meanwhile Melita Eagles expect to open the season at full strength.

Coach Dennis Hoggart said: "Basically the job was to rest some players in the play-off for third place in the State Bank Cup."

"Others hadn't had enough competitive play in the series, so they had a run."

"Ken Wilson had a twisted knee but he is likely to be right for the first league game against Inter Monaro at Queanbeyan on Sunday."

"We can't risk taking Monaro lightly, especially in an away game."

— K.G.

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SOCCER LEAGUE

### THIS WEEKS MATCHES

#### SATURDAY 14th MARCH 2ND DIVISION

Blacktown United Vs Queens Park Francis Park  
Fairy Meadow Vs Gladesville Hby W'gong Police Boys

#### 3RD DIVISION

West United Vs Granville Chile Garside Park

#### SUNDAY 15th MARCH SOCCER LEAGUE

Manly Warringah Vs Ku-ring-gai Cromer Park  
Inter Monaro Vs Melita Eagles Marco Polo Gd  
Uruguay Vs Wollongong City Mona Park  
Rockdale Ilinden Vs Sutherland Hurstville Oval  
Wollongong Mac. Vs Newcastle Rosebud Berkeley Sports Gd  
Cant. M'ville Oly. Vs Canberra City Arlington Oval  
Blacktown City Vs Warringah F/Water Gabbie Stadium

#### 2ND DIVISION

Sydney Maccabi Vs Campbelltown City TBA  
Dee Why Swans Vs Kingsford Hellenic Dee Why Oval  
SSC Yugal Vs Avala Blick Oval  
Polonia Vs Nth Sydney Artarmon Chopin Park  
Bathurst '75 Vs Nth Bankstown Proctor Park

#### 3RD DIVISION

Mt Druitt Vs Moorebank L'pool Popondetta Park  
Nth Ryde RSL Vs Concordia Magdala Park  
Baulkham Hills Vs Bondi Marine Ted Horwood Res.  
Port Hacking Vs Canterbury Dist. Woollooware Oval  
Campbelltown Dist. Vs King Tomislav Bensley Road S/G  
Uni. of NSW Vs Rooty Hill Little Bay Oval

#### NOTE:

Inter Monaro Vs Melita Eagles Marco Polo Gd

2ND GRADE 1.45pm, 1st GRADE 4pm, ALL OTHER FIXTURES: 2.30pm, 12.30pm, 10.50am

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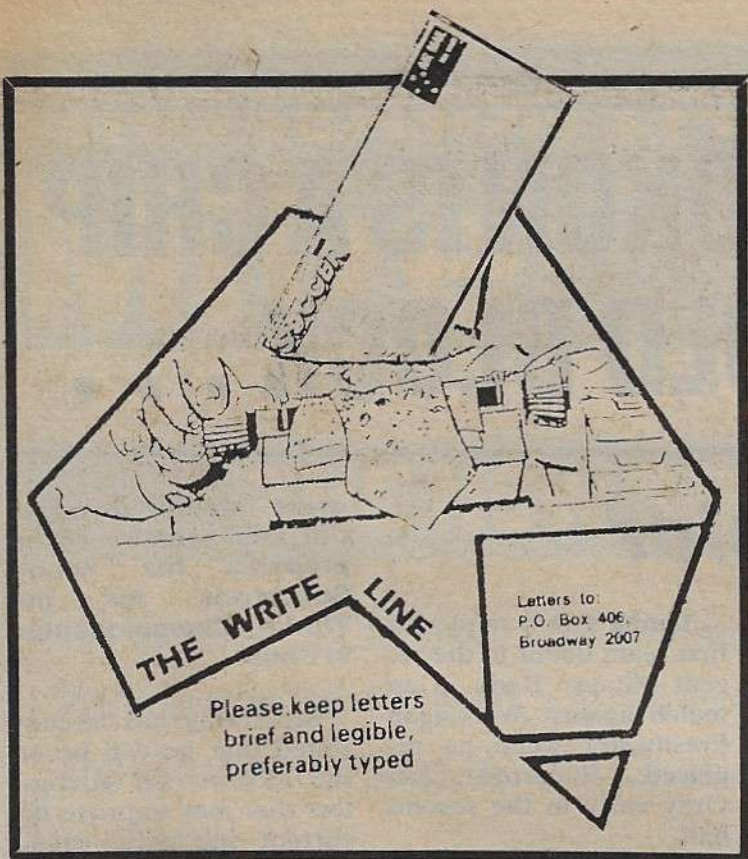
#### GROUP A

Marconi v Ku-ring-gai . . . Marconi No2  
Central Coast v Sydney Oly . . . Bill Plum Mem.  
Nepean v Blacktown City . . . Cook Park  
APIA v Gladesville-Hornsby . . . Lambert Park  
St George v Sydney City . . . Peakhurst Park  
Melita v Southern Dists . . . TBA  
Illawarra v Canterbury-Marr . . . Towradgi Park

#### GROUP B

Yugal v Sutherland . . . Jellicoe Park  
Campbelltown City v Macarthur . . . Linwood Park  
Manly v Polonia . . . Cromer Park  
North Bankstown v Uruguay . . . Potts Park  
Avala v Bankstown . . . TBA  
Croatia v Rockdale . . . Jensen Park  
Canterbury v Blacktown . . . Punchbowl No1





## DAILY PRESS

I WOULD like to express my view, in which I am definitely not alone, that our major Soccer scribes are steadily killing the local Soccer scene through their total pre-occupation and dedication to English Soccer mainly, a fair coverage of European Soccer and a minimal coverage of local Soccer.

Compare the coverage of League (trials only) to the disgraceful efforts of Soccer writers who had an exciting and highly interesting competition of great interest to all club supporters, both NSL and State.

The State Bank Cup not only had a major sponsor, who with us would be very disappointed with their efforts, but it was the time when

supporters were keen to get details of club signings, losses and transfers of players together with coverage of the matches being played by no fewer than fifteen clubs.

Yet on the weekend of the Quarter Finals, coverage was non-existent, frustratingly, not even a score to be had unless you phone the clubs involved.

It was Monday afternoon before we finally found out that two big upsets took place or had any scores from matches played Saturday and Sunday.

Could the staff of your excellent paper, the only real source of information of local interest, ascertain if this totally misplaced emphasis on overseas Soccer is the result of inefficient flow of information from Clubs to the Press, or just the result of it being in the

hands of expatriate Scribes revelling in "educating" we ignorant Colonials!!!

**Richard Wilmott, Seven Hills.**

[We agree that there was little exception to the poor cover in Sydney dailies. If Soccer enthusiasts would write with complaints en masse to the sporting editors they would be forced to gravely consider acting. They know that for every letter received these are another 20 unhappy customers who don't write to them.]

Some writers are not to blame for the extent of the overseas cover, because that comes in direct and space is allocated by the sporting editors. — Ed.]

## INSTITUTE HEAD COACH

I WOULD like to express my disgust and bitter disappointment of the new appointment of head coach at the AIS.

I think it's about time some of the so called top-dogs of Australian Soccer start to recognise what the real Australian Soccer people are doing and have done for the game here.

As an Australian Soccer fan I would have loved to have seen Johnny Warren appointed head coach at the Institute.

Warren, apart from living in Canberra, leading the Socceroos by exam-

ple in the early 70's, holding a FIFA coaching badge, being awarded an MBE from the Queen for his services to Soccer and most recently being inducted into the Australian Hall of Fame, would have been the ideal man for the job.

He has once again been knocked back from a job which he is fully capable of and a job that he thoroughly deserves.

Over the years John has earned a great deal of respect from Soccer people all over the world and especially here in Australia where he has been playing, coaching and promoting the game for well over 25 years.

This says something for his character and his determination to get the Australian game up there with the best.

In my opinion, keeping a unique person of Johnny Warren's calibre out of the coaching sphere of Australia's best young players is doing those players and the game itself a great injustice.

**Concerned Soccer Supporter, Sydney.**

## AIS POSITION

READ all the rubbish that has been written during the last week since Johnny Warren failed in his application for the job of Soccer coach at the AIS.

Please could you inform me what coaching experience John has had since he left Canberra City where he was the worst coach they have

had. I do not think he coached another NSL team and I am not surprised.

Under Jim Shoulder and Ron Smith his assistant, the AIS has helped to raise Australian Soccer more than any other single feature during the past 10 years and has produced at least 30 of Soccer's most delightful players.

Johnny Warren did an excellent job for Australia culminating in the 1974 World Cup, but let us be realistic - what practical help has he given to any NSL team? This latest suggestion about sharing out the AIS players is just plain stupid.

More to the point, would he make the NSL an odd number of teams, and include the AIS to make up the league to even numbers, on a non-competitive basis, such as they are going to do in the Victorian State League this year.

**Stephen Whitcombe, Braddon ACT 2601.**

[It has been necessary to edit your letter to a limited degree for reasons which would be obvious to you. Johnny Warren, as you would be aware, has not coached anywhere else in the NSL and to our knowledge has concentrated on youth and junior coaching activities.]

I can well recall Warren coaching at Canberra under most difficult circumstances. The quality judgment must be your own.

Regarding the AIS playing in the NSL, ASW

cannot imagine any such possibility. — Ed]

## WESTLAKES SHINE

**NEW Central Coast Soccer Association club Westlakes surprised by extending Budgewoi No1 in the Monier Resources Cup.**

Westlakes went down 1-0 in a game played under lights at the Budgewoi Soccer Complex.

Another newcomer in Toukley recorded a 3-0 win over Budgewoi No4.

Competing in the series are teams from Terigal, Kanwal, Budgewoi, Toukley, Swansea, Gosford, Westlakes and Wyong clubs.

## BARCELONA FAVOURED

**SPANISH giants Barcelona are favoured to take out next week's return UEFA Cup game against Scotland's Dundee.**

The Scots were jubilant when they opened up in the first leg with a 1-0 win at Dens Park.

World Cup striker Paul Sturrock outshone the Barcelona British striking partnership of Gary Lineker and Mark Hughes.

Dundee's scorer was Kevin Gallacher, who piloted his team into the lead as early as the second minute.

The winner goes into the UEFA Cup semi-finals.

## ARSENAL IN LEAGUE CUP

**ARSENAL came from behind to defeat London rivals Tottenham Hotspur and claim a place in the League Cup final.**

It will be an Arsenal-Liverpool final at Wembley Stadium on April 5.

In Wednesday night's game Spurs opened the scoring but could not believe their misfortune when they finally lost 2-1.

The game was 62 minutes old when Clive Allen scored. The score evened up through Ian Allinson and the David Rocastle won the game

for the Gunners right on fulltime.

Meanwhile in the First Division there is a tremendous battle to avoid the relegation drop.

Southampton, Manchester City, Charlton, Aston Villa, Newcastle United and Leicester City are all under tremendous pressure.



**ENGLISH FULL MEMBERS' CUP, quarter-finals:** Blackburn 3 Chelsea 0, Everton 2 Charlton 2 (Charlton win 6-5 on penalties).

**ENGLISH DIVISION TWO:** Barnsley 2 Shrewsbury 1, Huddersfield 2 Birmingham 2, Hull 1 Sunderland 0, Ipswich 1 West Bromwich 0 (all postponed from Jan 17).

**ENGLISH DIVISION THREE:** Bolton 0 Brentford 2, Bournemouth 3 Middlesbrough 1, Bristol City 3 Blackpool 1, Carlisle 0 Wigan 2, Chesterfield 1 Gillingham 0, Darlington 1 Bristol Rovers 1, Fulham 0 Doncaster 0, Mansfield 0 Rotherham 0, Notts County 5 Newport 2, Port Vale 2 Bury 0, Walsall 1 Chester 0, Scunthorpe 1.

**ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR:** Aldershot 1 Hereford 0, Cardiff 0 Hereford 0, Crewe 0 Cambridge 0, Rochdale 1, Swansea 0, Torquay 2 Southend 1, Tranmere 2 Lincoln 0, Wolverhampton 2 Colchester 0, Wrexham 1 Scunthorpe 1.

**SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE:** Dunfermline 2 Montrose 0, Partick 1 Kilmarnock 2 (both postponed from Feb 14).

**SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO:** Albion 3 St Johnstone 0 (postponed from Feb 14).

**FA CUP, Rd 5 second replays:** Walsall 0 Watford 1 (Watford away to Arsenal in quarter-final).

**SCOTTISH FA CUP, Rd 4 replays:** Dundee 2 Meadowbank 0, Raith 3 Peterhead 0.

**ENGLISH Div 4:** Stockport 2 Orient 2.

**IRISH FA CUP, Rd 5:** Mervue United 2 Rockmount 2 (replay Wednesday), Home Farm 1 Galway United 0, Athlone Town 0 St Patrick's Athletic 0, Cork City 1, Derry City 3, Limerick City 2, Shamrock Rovers 3, Dundalk 3, Swilly Rovers 0, Bohemians 1, Bray Wanderers 0, Waterford United 1, Sligo Rovers 1 (replay Wednesday).

**SCOTTISH CUP, q-f revised draw:** Hearts v Motherwell, Clydebank v Dundee, Raith v St Mirren, Dundee United v Forfar. Ties to be played Saturday March 14.

**ENGLISH Div 1:** Charlton 2 West Ham 1, Chelsea 1 Arsenal 0, Coventry 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0, Liverpool 2, Luton 0, Manchester United 2, Manchester City 0, Newcastle 2, Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0, Wimbledon 0, Nottingham Forest 2, Oxford 0, Southampton 4, Leicester 0, Tottenham 1, Queen's Park Rangers 0.

**Div 2:** Birmingham v Sunderland postponed, Bradford 2 Blackburn 0, Brighton 0 Derby 1, Hull 0

Huddersfield 0, Leeds 2 Grimsby 0, Plymouth 1 Millwall 0, Sheffield United 1, Barnsley 0, Shrewsbury 1, Crystal Palace, Stoke v Ipswich, West Bromwich v Portsmouth postponed, Oldham 4 Reading 0.

**Div 3:** Blackpool 1 Mansfield 2, Brentford 0, Walsall 1, Bristol Rovers v Carlisle postponed, Bury 2, Fulham 1, Chester 0, Bolton 0, Doncaster 1, Notts County 2, Gillingham 0, Port Vale 0, Middlesbrough 1, Bristol City 0, Rotherham 0, York 0, Swindon v Darlington postponed, Wigan 1 Bournemouth 1 (abandoned after 61 minutes because of snow).

**Div 4:** Burnley 0 Exeter 0, Cambridge 1, Wrexham 0, Halifax 0, Crewe 3, Huddersfield 9, Aldershot 1, Hereford v Northampton postponed, Orient 3, Wolverhampton 1, Preston v Rochdale postponed, Scunthorpe 1, Cardiff 3.

**SCOTTISH Prem Div:** Celtic 3 Motherwell 1, Dundee United 1, Clydebank 1, Falkirk 1, Rangers 2, Hamilton 0, Hearts 1, Hibernian 1, Aberdeen 1, St Mirren 0, Dundee 1.

**Div 1:** Brechin 0, Airdrieonians 2, Dunfermline 1, Dumbarton 0, East Fife 3, Montrose 1, Morton v Kilmarnock postponed, Partick 2, Forfar 1, Queen of the South v Clyde postponed.

**Div 2:** Albion 0, Arbroath 1, Ayr 1, Meadowbank 3, Berwick 0, East Stirling 1, Cowdenbeath 2, Raith 2, St Johnstone 1, Alloa 3, Stenhousemuir 0, Stranraer 0, Stirling 1, Queen's Park 0.

**ENGLISH DIVISION ONE**

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	30	17	7	6	54	29
Everton	29	16	7	6	53	25
Sheff Wed	29	15	9	5	42	17
Derby	28	15	8	5	49	29
Nottingham	28	15	8	5	49	29
Notts Forest	30	14	8	8	52	35

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	30	14	8	8	34	30
Norwich	30	12	13	5	41	38
Coventry	30	13	7	10	34	33
Wimbledon	30	13	5	12	39	36
Man Utd	30	10	11	9	39	41
Watford	28	11	7	10	46	36
QPR	29	11	6	12	30	39
Chelsea	31	10	9	12	49	39
West Ham	29	10	8	11	43	38
Sheff Wed	30	8	11	11	40	35
Oxford	30	8	10	12	31	48
Southampton	29	9	4	16	45	31
Charlton	30	7	8	15	29	42
Man City	30	6	11	13	26	40
Leicester	30	7	6	17	37	60
Aston Villa	31	6	9	16	35	61
Newcastle	29	6	7	16	31	52

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	30	18	7	5	38	18
Derby	30	17	7	6	44	26
Oldham	30	17	6	7	50	30

**ENGLISH DIVISION TWO**

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackpool	30	18	7	5	38	18
Derby	30	17	7	6	44	26
Oldham	30	17	6	7	50	30

Plymouth 30 13 9 8 46 38 48

Ipswich 30 13 8 9 47 32 47

Leeds 29 12 8 9 35 33 44

Stoke 28 12 5 11 42 34 41

Cryst Pal 29 13 2 14 38 44 41

Birmingham 30 9 13 8 39 39 40

WBA 30 10 9 11 38 32 39

Millwall 30 11 6 13 31 31 39

Sheff Utd 30 10 9 11 36 38 39

Grimsby 31 9 12 10 32 38 39

Reading 30 10 7 13 44 43 37

Sunderland 28 9 10 9 33 33 36

Shrewsbury 30 10 5 15 26 37 35

Huddersfield 30 9 7 14 38 48 34

Hull 29 9 7 13 27 46 34

Barnsley 30 8 9 13 29 37 33

Blackburn 29 8 8 13 25 35 32

Bradford 29 8 7 14 42 48 31

Brighton 30 7 8 15 26 38 29

Hearts 35 18 10 7 56 33 46

Dundee 32 13 7 12 47 40 33

St Mirren 35 10 9 16 29 41 29

Motherwell 35 8 10 17 35 54 26

Hibernian 35 8 10 17 32 55 26

Falkirk 34 6 6 22 26 58 18

Clydebank 35 5 8 22 29 78 18

Hamilton 34 5 7 22 31 72 17

**DIVISION ONE**

Dunfermline 35 20 9 6 54 32 49

Morton 34 17 8 9 68 44 42

Dumbarton 34 18 5 11 49 38 41

East Fife 35 12 17 6 52 45 41

Airdrieonians 15 8 22 40 34 38

Kilmarnock 34 13 9 12 48 40 35

Forfar 34 10 14 10 47 47 34

Clyde 32 8 14 10 34 37 30

Partick 34 9 11 14 40 44 29

QO South 9 10 15 39 50 28

Brechin 34 6 7 21 33 61 23

Montrose 35 8 8 19 33 61 23

**DIVISION TWO**

Raith 29 12 14 3 57 34 38

Meik 30 16 6 8 52 41 38

Maybank 28 15 7 6 50 27 37

St Johnstone 29 13 10 5 38 37

Stirling 29 13 10 6 39 26 36

Alloa 29 14 5 10 40 38 33

Cowdenbeath 29 13 10 6 44 41 32

Albion 29 11 7 11 38 42 29

Queen's Pk 29 12 5 12 36 39 27

Arbroath 30 9 5 16 36 53 23

Stranraer 28 7 8 13 30 37 22

Stenhousemuir 30 6 9 15 27 46 21

Berwick 30 7 5 18 32 50 19

E Stirling 29 4 8 17 24 44 16

**EUROPEAN CUP** quarter-final, first leg matches:

Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 4 Real Madrid (Spain) 2, Porto (Port) 1 Broendbyernes (Den) 0

**Cup Winners' Cup**

Lokomotiv Leipzig (E Ger) 2 Sion (Switz) 0, Real Zaragoza (Spain) 2 Vitosha Sofia (Bulg) 0, Bordeaux (Fra) 1 Torpedo Moscow (USSR) 0

**UEFA Cup**

Gothenburg (Swe) 0 Internazionale Milan (Ita) 0, Borussia Moenchengladbach (W Ger) 3, Vitoria Guimaraes (Port) 0, Torino (Ita) 0, Svarovski Tyrol (Aut) 0, Dundee United (Sco) 1, Barcelona (Spain) 0

**European Cup**

Bayern Munich (W Ger) 5 Anderlecht (Belg) 0

**English League Cup**

semifinal replay: Tottenham 1 Arsenal 2 (Arsenal meet Liverpool in the final at Wembley on Sunday, April 5)

**English Div 1**

Aston Villa 0 Wimbledon 0 (postponed from Jan 17)

**English Div 2**

Derby 0 Portsmouth 0 (postponed from Jan 17)

**English Div 4**

Exeter 1 Preston 2, Northampton 1 Hartlepool 1, Peterborough 1 Burnley 1

**QANTAS SOUTH PACIFIC CUP** WINNERS' CUP in Auckland:

**SYDNEY CITY 2** (A Saad T McCulloch) b HANIMEX NORTH SHORE (AUCKLAND) 0 in Auckland, New Zealand.

**FRANCE:** Rennes 0 Bordeaux 1, Auxerre 0 Marseille 0, Brest 1 Toulouse 2, Saint-Etienne 0, Monaco 0, Nantes 2, Sochaux 1, Nice 3, Le Havre 1, Metz 1, Laval 0, Lille 1, Paris Saint-Germain 0, Toulon 1, Nancy 0, Racing Club Paris 5 Lens 0.

**STANDINGS**

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	25	14	8	3	35	15
Marseille	25	12	11	2	34	16
Toulouse	25	11	8	6	33	18
Auxerre	25	10	9	6	29	21
Nantes	25	10	9	6	26	21

**SPAIN:** Real Sociedad 0 Atletico Madrid 1.

**WEST GERMAN CUP, q-f:** Stuttgart Kickers 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Borussia Moenchengladbach 9 Bayer Uerdingen 2, Darmstadt 0 Hamburg SV 1, Fortuna Duesseldorf 1 Karlsruhe 0.

**Div 1:** Schalke 2, Nuremberg 4, Bayer Leverkusen 3 Borussia Dortmund 2.

**EAST GERMANY:** Stahl Brandenburg 1 Karl Marx Stadt 0, Energie Cottbus 0 Vorwaerts Frankfurt 2, Dynamo Berlin 2, Rot Weiss Erfurt 0, Fortschritt Bismarckwerda 3, Stahl Riesa 2, Carl Zeiss Jena 3 Union Berlin 1, Lok Leipzig 1 Wismut Aue 0, Magdeburg 2, Dynamo Dresden 2.

**Div 1:** Schalke 2, Nuremberg 4, Bayer Leverkusen 3, Borussia Dortmund 2.

**HOLLAND:** PEC Zwolle 0, Twente 1, VVV 1, Go Ahead Eagles 0, Veendam v Sparta postponed.

**HUNGARY:** Bekerescaba 2, Siofok 1, Dunaujvaros 1, Raba Eto 1, Eger 0, Bp Honved 0, Pecs 1, Ujpesti Dozsa 2, Szombathely 0, MTK-VM 2, Ferencvaros 0, Debrecen 0.

**NORTHERN IRLISH League:** Ards 3 Crusaders 0, Ballymena 1, Newry 2, Cliftonville 1, Bangor 2, Distillery 2, Coleraine 8, Glenavon 1, Linfield 2, Glentoran 4, Portadown 0, Larne 1, Carrick 1.

**EUROPEAN C'ship Group 2, in Lisbon:** Italy 1 Portugal 0 (Alto-belli 35th).

**STANDINGS**

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## The Junior Scene

ASW's Editor Keith Gilmour takes a look at the Junior Game.

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in Australia

## ANZ SPONSORS, QUEENSLAND COLT OF THE YEAR AWARD

**THE ANZ Banking Group has sponsored a 'Colt of the Year' Award for the Queensland Soccer Federation.**

Their Queensland manager, Mr B.J. Dawson, said: ANZ Bank is proud to announce its \$1,000.00 Colt of the Year Award in association with the Queensland Soccer Federation.

"Soccer is a growing sport in this State and we are proud to offer the Queensland Soccer Federation our support.

"We feel this is a great opportunity for ANZ

Bank to encourage junior Soccer players to develop and refine their skills.

"The \$1,000.00 savings account and trophy are the reward we offer for outstanding achievement."

QSF President Ald. Ian Brusasco said he was delighted to be associated with ANZ Bank in this project, and that no other sport offered players the opportunity to excel at junior levels that Soccer did.

"With the ANZ Colt of the Year Award, junior players will have the

chance to be rewarded for their skill.

"From Under 16 competitions on, young Soccer players have the chance to represent their country at World Cup level and through World Youth Championships or the Olympics.

"The availability of top competitions from which to view nominated players makes the Award selection very exciting," Ald. Brusasco added.

The ANZ Colt of the Year Award will be made to a player not over 19 years of age in the January of the Award year.

## GLADESVILLE-HORNSBY EXCELS WITH ENTRIES

**GLADESVILLE-Hornsby Football Association in Sydney's north western suburbs has chalked up an excellent season's entry of in excess of 550 teams.**

And this represents some 7000 registered players, reinforcing its position as one of the biggest sporting bodies in Sydney.

Association president Brian Thompson said: "The biggest club this season is West Pennant Hills, which takes in the relatively new and expanding suburb of Cherrybrook. It has 39 teams.

"Next comes Beecroft (32 teams) and St Andrews Eastwood (30)".

After years of negotiation for a major ground the Association has had a breakthrough.

The transfer of a section of land near Macquarie University is to pass from the State Government to Ryde Municipal Council.

This will enable a scheme to be completed which will allow a Soccer complex to be sited within the boundaries of a large trotting track.

There will be a main Soccer ground and a



practice ground, dressing accommodation and referees' lecture rooms for a start.

Both the Association and the Referees Association have been putting aside funds for many years to provide Soccer's contribution towards development costs.

The location of the Soccer complex is as

good as any available in Ryde Municipality and Hornsby Shire, being handy to the University and also the showpiece Macquarie Shopping Centre.

Negotiations have proceeded for many years with Jim Forrest, Brian Thompson and many others to the fore.

The ground will be the ultimate home of the Gladesville-Hornsby State League Second Division club.

The State League outfit is officially part of the Australian under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act.

Both organisations have operated together harmoniously for many years.

Club president John Syme, who coached both Gladesville-Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai in past years, is a very enthusiastic supporter of the ground project.

— K.G.

## NEW SOUTH WALES UNDER 13 STATE TEAM



# YOUNG KLAUS OKON IS A CHIP OFF THE OLD, OLD BLOCK . . .

## Rising Marconi junior

ONE of the National League's brightest young prospects is all set to burst onto the Soccer scene this season and take his first tentative steps towards what promises to be a long and exciting career.

FROM FRANK SCICLUNA

Sixteen year old Marconi midfielder player Klaus Okon has been described by Socceroo striker Steve Maxwell as one of the most talented youngsters has has played with and predicts a successful future for him.

Coach Roberto Vieri has taken Okon under his wing, giving him a taste of senior football during the State Bank Challenge Cup and plans to nurse him along with occasional first team appearances.

Although a member of the club's Youth League squad, Klaus will be

training regularly with the star-studded National League side under Vieri's direction, which will allow his game to develop further.

This shy, unassuming schoolboy is the son of Klaus senior, who was a regular member of the Marconi team in the late sixties and has for a number of years successfully coached various junior teams for the club.

coach and National Youth team boss Les Scheinflug is certain to be watching Okon's development with

Young Okon made his first team debut in the recent State Bank Cup match against Warringah Freshwater when he replaced Socceroo Ian Gray early in the second half.

He turned on a performance which totally belied his tender years.

His skill and maturity for one so young surprised most of the observers at the game, but not Vieri, who always had full confidence in the youngster's ability.

Vieri had no hesitation in again using him as a late substitute during the quarter-final against National League giants St George, and once more Okon came through his test with flying colours.

Former Marconi Youth Team

great interest throughout this season, as he prepares his Young Socceroo for the World Championships in Chile.

Scheinflug has already stated that he will be on the lookout for youngsters that may improve his current successful squad even further, and Okon must be in with a fair chance.

This will be his only opportunity of representing Australia at youth level as he misses out by a few days from being eligible for the next Youth Championships in 1989.

Okon knows full well that his best chance of forcing his way into Scheinflug's side is to play regularly in the National League, but he also realises that the awesome depth at Marconi will limit his opportunities.

The youngster is quite prepared to bide his time serving his football apprenticeship in the Youth League, while developing his skills by training regularly with his international colleagues.

Should the chance come along for him to take his place in the senior team, Okon is sure to grab it with both hands and will not let Vieri down.

Keep an eye out for this cultured midfielder. He has the talent and determination to carve out a very big future in the game.

## TOWNSVILLE YOUNGSTER FREIBERG HAS POTENTIAL WITH COALSTARS

**AUSTRALIAN Under 16 representative Darren Freiberg has made a promising debut for glamor Queensland XXXX League club Coalstars.**

The 16-year-old from Townsville turned out for the Ipswich side in their XXXX League match against Taringa at Perry Park last week. And although Coalstars crashed to a humiliating 3-0 defeat at the hands of "Amateurs" Taringa — Freiberg showed enough to suggest he will be a valuable asset.

The youngster has powerful legs and tackles without fear. But his biggest asset is his ability and keenness to go forward.

A number of times he gave Coalstars added width on the right flank and on one occasion in the first half the youngster was desperately unlucky not to score.

He made a good run down the flank and raced onto a well placed

ball from Ian Lawrie. Freiberg cut in on only his anxiousness to score saw him shoot too early and too straight, allowing Taringa keeper Peter Speare to smother. Had Freiberg delayed his shot, then chipped he certainly would have scored.

After the game, Coal-

stars coach Brian Styles, although berating much of his team, had kind words for the young Australian rep.

"He did well and certainly does not have to shoulder any of the blame for the loss. Darren is going to be a great asset for our club," Styles said.

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# NORTHERN NSW TURMOIL OVER SUPER LEAGUE

## Special U13, 14, 16 years competitions

THE dispute that took place in NSW amateur circles over high class junior football is currently being duplicated in Northern NSW.

The upshot of the NSW fracas was the setting up of the NSW under 13, 14, 15 and 16 Youth League, which has proved a tremendous success.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

Earlier the only way through the ranks for top juniors was inter-association representative football.

Today the associations mix in with the top teams of the senior clubs of the National and State Leagues.

Greater resources — financial and coaching — have been brought to bear on junior development, with outstanding results.

The Northern NSW the Federation has set up the Super League in order to properly husband the improvement of

boys in the under 13, 14 and 16 age groups.

Officials said that there are two factors involved in introducing the scheme.

Northern NSW representative teams would receive better training to operate in the National Championships.

In addition the idea was to create loyalty to senior clubs from the up and coming stars.

### Junior View

But the officials of Northern NSW Amateur Soccer Federation are concerned that the NNSWASF is moving into their domain.

The NNSWASF is in charge of almost 30,000 juniors in a territory starting just north of Sydney and extending to the Queensland border.

The Northern NSW

Amateurs met at Wanchope in the New England area recently and decided not to affiliate with the NNSW State Federation.

Although they talked about affiliating to the NSW Amateurs and the Australian Junior Council, this is impossible under the way in which Australian football is structured.

If NSW Amateurs and Northern NSW lined up it would herald the beginning of one NSW State organisation.

Whilst this would benefit country Soccer immensely the move would be difficult to implement at junior level.

As usual with situations of the nature of the current dispute, a lot of flack flies around.

The Northern NSW Super League representative boys were to play off against the Amateur Federation boys.

Coaches would then select the best squads for National Championships.

### Claim

Junior officials claim that squads have been selected to represent and that their players have been left out in the cold.

Normally State Championships are played in various centres around the 'state' over the Queens Birthday weekend.

There is another matter of friction over a proposed 90¢ capitation levy.

But overall where is Soccer going with all this bickering.

The argument in favour of the Super League is overwhelming.

It will involve about 450 boys regularly in a higher class of football than they have been exposed to in the past.

All will be from the Newcastle-Hunter region, but it is impossible to cover the various coastal and other Soccer branches spread over so much of Northern NSW.

In other centres the youngsters will have to rely upon better coaching, clinics, and the extended coaching service to help with their football standards.

### Overwhelming

For the Northern NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, the need for the junior Super League surely must sink in.

Ambitious young players must be provided for in the way they are in Sydney, and across the world.

They have to come up through the ranks of the

senior clubs. It is just a question of at what age they should start. As long as it is 13 years and above then no questions should be asked.

So far as the junior clubs of Newcastle and Macquarie etc are concerned, they will lose some good youngsters.

But there is nothing to stop these clubs replenishing their ranks and continuing on with the type of local football that they know and do best.

Providing the excellent sport of Soccer football to the community at large is a very worthwhile task indeed.



The Northern NSW Federation and the Amateurs should get their heads together and finalise the entire matter on the basis that the Super League is going ahead.

## AUSTRALIA'S UNDER 16S PREPARE FOR WORLD CUP

BY GREG RUSSELL

AUSTRALIAN Under 16 assistant coach Bruce Stowell has mapped out a detailed plan he hopes will give his side the best possible chance of success at the world titles in Canada in July.

The plan includes two tough matches in the fortnight prior to the start of the World Tournament, hopefully against opposition several years older than the young Australians.

"It's no good us playing someone we know we can beat, we want someone who will give us a run for our money," Stowell said.

"I have recommended we play pre-tournament matches in South or North America in an area of similar climatic conditions to the city of our first round matches," Stowell said.

"If we could get an opponent like a National Youth team, I think we would get a very good trial."

Stowell has submitted his plan to the Australian Soccer Federation World Cup committee and is hoping for a quick reply.

His plan starts with a 10-day camp over Easter at the NSW Soccer Federation's Valentine

Park complex at Parklea. The camp would be for the 16 players who in Taiwan last year won the Oceania tournament for the right to play in the World finals.

Also invited to the camp would be the four shadow player along with possibly up to 10 more new faces, recommended by various state and regional directors of coaching.

"We certainly haven't finalised the squad for Canberra because at this age a player can improve very quickly. We have asked all the state directors of coaching to be on the lookout for any youngsters who may have missed our original dragnet or have improved markedly since," Stowell said.

The second step of Stowell's camp will be a long weekend in May after which the final 18 would be named to make the trip overseas. A camp just prior to departure also is envisaged.

Australia reached the



BRUCE STOWELL ... U16 expert with Vic Daigleish.

quarter-finals of the inaugural world under 16 championships in China in 1985, being knocked out of the tournament on penalties by Guinea. In the first round, the team had beaten hot favorites Argentina and eventual finalists West Germany.

"A lot of countries will be taking these championships very seriously and will adopt an extremely professional approach. We have to do the same if we hope to compete and a thorough plan of preparation is vital," Stowell said.



DAVID WILLIAMS makes a presentation.

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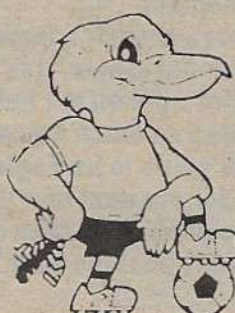


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## NEW SOUTH WALES

### NATIONAL UNDER 16 TEAM



S. Jee



S. Dimoudis



P. Rago.



S. Georgarkis





## The Wide World of Football



### MARK FALCO

(Watford)

Three v Aston Villa in 4-2 win, October 18, 1986

I WAS delighted to hit three on my home debut for Watford – the second game after my £400,000 move from Spurs.

My first goal was hooked in from about 12 yards out. That was the best of the three because I had to squeeze the ball through a crowded penalty area.

The second came two minutes

later when John Barnes received the ball on the right wing and beat a defender before crossing into the centre. I was there to head the ball past Nigel Spink in the Villa goal.

And to complete my hat-trick, I scored from close range in the 72nd minute.

It was great to score a triple on my home debut because it made me an instant hit with the fans.

## Sam wants Sammy

Blackpool manager SAM ELLIS is confident of signing Northern Ireland captain SAMMY McILROY (right) when he returns from Sweden later this month.

The 32-year-old midfielder man is still on contract with Manchester City, but is expected to be given a free transfer after a loan spell in Sweden. Ellis believes his experience could be vital in his club's promotion push.



### Leeds disgrace

So-called supporters of Leeds United continue to do the game most harm, at a time when every effort is being made to curb the disease of hooliganism.

Yorkshire fans have disgraced the club twice this season, setting fire to property at Bradford and West Brom.

Add to these the disgraceful

pre-season scenes involving Manchester United and West Ham supporters on a Sealink ferry, and it might seem unreasonable to suggest a continuing improvement in the behaviour of fans.

But it is a fact that the FA have received only seven reports of serious misbehaviour at more

than 1,000 League matches so far this season.

And while Luton's membership scheme has been slammed in some quarters, it has proved a definite hit with residents close to Kenilworth Road.

Look out for a special report on Luton's scheme in our next issue.

### JOHN DEEHAN

(Ipswich Town)

Three v West Brom in 4-3 win, September 13, 1986

AFTER going four games without scoring after joining Ipswich from Norwich I was a little worried, but it all came right at West Brom.

I was pleased that the three goals came from a left foot shot, a right foot shot and a header – a nice combination.

We were 2-0 down when I got my first in the 38th minute – the best of three. Romeo Zondervan played the ball up the line. I cut inside a defender and bent the ball round the 'keeper.

We conceded another goal early in the second-half but I made it 2-3 in the 58th minute. Jason Dozzell squared the ball to me and I scored with my right foot.

I equalised in the 77th minute, heading in from a free-kick. Kevin Wilson got our winner.

It was my fourth hat-trick. I'd got three for Norwich but they're never easy. You really need five good chances if you're to score three and you have to be lucky.



John Deehan's three goals sunk his former club WBA in September

### ◀ AT LEFT FALCO (above) DEEHAN (below) HAT TRICK HEROES

Charlton striker JIM MELROSE has finally discovered the root cause of the respiratory problems which have been plaguing him for years... he's allergic to grass! Maybe a transfer to QPR or Luton could solve his problem.

STUART PEARCE, the new England Under-21 left-back, knows he has a long way to go before making the step up to a full international cap.

Says the Forest defender: "KENNY SANSON is a cut above the rest of us at the moment.

"If there is such a thing as an international player, it is Kenny. He's so comfortable on the ball and possesses so much know-how.

"He's going to be England's first choice for the next four years, but I aim to be pushing to take over when he's finally past his best."





## In Brief

AFTER giving away a last-minute penalty on December 7 against Manchester United, Tottenham's **DANNY THOMAS** has been cautious.

On that day his indiscretion gave United a 3-3 draw (game pictured) and on that day after a rollicking from the Spurs fans Thomas vowed not to give another away this season... so far so good.

**DERBY COUNTY** have recently further strengthened their challenge for promotion to the First Division with the signing of Watford's **NIGEL CALLAGHAN** for \$280,000.



THE Italian government has approved plans to spend \$442 million on modernising 12 venues for the 1990 World Cup.

**YUGOSLAV** international Edhem Slijvo could be forced to quit football after a horrific car crash.

The 36-year-old midfielder currently with Belgian side FC Liege, suffered multiple fractures and spinal injuries after his car smashed into an electricity pylon.

**ABERDEEN's BRIAN MITCHELL** is set to join Bradford City for \$100,000.

AFTER vowing that they would at least score a goal between them against the USSR, Welsh super-strikers **IAN RUSH** and **MARK HUGHES** were left with their heads in their hands after the 0-0 European Championship match.

Asks Hughes: "When are we going to beat those guys?!"

English first division club **Queens Park Rangers** was sold last week to property company **Marier Estates** for \$12.74 million.

Strange how sometimes a club can cost less money than is laid out for just one player. Tottenham was stated to be waving \$23 million in front of **Diego Maradona**. For that kind of money QPR could have been bought twice!

LISTEN to what has happened in England concerning the furore over the increasing bout of synthetic pitches.

The FA has banned any installation of 'plastic pitches' for three years. This decision was simply a compromise. If they had been serious they would have banned them altogether, or allowed the clubs in the lower divisions to install them so that the development of artificial surfaces can continue.

The general thoughts are that given time, the ideal synthetic pitch will be developed and all the top clubs could be using them.

Uuugh! What an awful thought...

THE talk at Elland Road, home of the once great **LEEDS UNITED**, is that the FA Cup quarter-finalists are going all the way to Wembley and that they will attempt to reverse the shock loss of 14 years ago when Sunderland beat them in the final as a second division side.

Leeds, now a second division club, will play Wigan in the next round and they aim to win on both the field and on the terraces — that is to see absolutely no hooliganism...



AFTER he looked set to join Nottingham Forest, **MARK HATELEY** of AC Milan is likely to join Glasgow Rangers.

Both Englishmen in the Milan line-up, Hateley and Ray Wilkins will be leaving Italy at season's end.

**BIRMINGHAM's** extrovert boss, **JOHN BOND** is likely to be charged with bringing the game into disrepute following recent remarks he made about England manager **Bobby Robson**.

**MANCHESTER UNITED** is set for another manic plunder into the transfer market.

Alex Ferguson, the Red Devils' manager, has \$5 million at his disposal to bring to the club the players he feels will bring the First Division title back to Old Trafford for the first time in 20 years.

**FANS** of FA Cup quarter-finalists **Wimbledon** have held a protest meeting to criticise the club's controversial proposal to merge with nearby Crystal Palace.

**WEST GERMAN** national team manager **FRANZ BECKENBAUER** has continued his call for a change in his country's Soccer season.

After viewing a couple more snowed under games the 'Kaiser' says summer matches are imperative to move away from games played in snow and ice.

THE Asian Football Confederation will seek the help of police in South East Asian countries in fighting corruption and match-fixing in the region.

**TERRY VENABLES**



**TERRY VENABLES**, manager of the brilliant Barcelona club in Spain, has revealed that he made an unsuccessful bid for his former club **Queens Park Rangers** when it was up for sale.

**ALGERIA, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Morocco, South Korea** and the United States have all applied to stage the 1994 World Cup finals. Brazil is the hot favourite.

The career of **HARALD SCHUMACHER**, the West German World Cup goalkeeper who has never been far from controversy, could well be over after the storm he provoked through his recently published autobiography.

In it he tells tales of amorous adventures and drug-taking involving professional footballers, many in the West German national team.

The recently deposed national team captain also claims he was involved but not during the World Cup, when he was a vital member of the team.

**ACE** England striker **PETER BEARDSELY** has quashed all the rumours about a possible transfer and has stated he is proud to be a Geordie. He will be prepared to stay with struggling first division club **Newcastle United** for as long as they want him.

WITH cracks appearing in the great Anfield machine, the latest player that Liverpool have shown interest in is Glasgow Celtic's classy midfielder **PAUL McStay**.

**ARSENAL's** wayward superstar **CHARLIE NICHOLAS** is on the wanted list by many rival clubs and the sounds from fierce rivals **Tottenham** are strong.

Nicholas though, says he is happy at Highbury and would like to stay with the Gunners if they want to keep him.

Champagne **Charlie** could well be on his way...



**LIAM BRADY**, the Republic of Ireland international midfielder in currently involved in a row with his Italian club **Ascoli**.

The conflict could well lead to Brady heading back to Britain in the next week and there is no shortage of clubs after his services. Lined up are **West Ham, Chelsea, Newcastle** and **Glasgow Rangers**.

But it's the Hammers that are favourites for his signature.

IN what can only be described as a shock move, **Liverpool** have paid \$928,000 for Chelsea midfielder **NIGEL SPACKMAN**.

LAWYERS representing the victims and bereaved of the **Bradford City** fire disaster, which killed 56 fans at their **Valley Parade** ground in March 1985, are to hold a series of informal meetings to settle individual claims for compensation.

**AUSTRALIA** is not the only country having troubles getting their best players released for international duty, the **New Zealanders** are in a similar sort of boat.

It might be remembered that for the last World Cup qualifying series the All Whites had to struggle for the services of **Wynton and Shane Rufer** from **FC Zurich** of Switzerland and **Ricki Herbert** of **Wolverhampton Wanderers** in England.

Now it seems star **Kiwi Declan Edge** is in danger of becoming a Soccer outcast.

**Notts County** are refusing to release his registration and that means **Edge**, under FIFA rules, is banned from club Soccer.

**Edge**, now with newly promoted **ANZSL** side **Mount Maunagui**, is in the curious position of being able to play international Soccer for the **Kiwis** but is comprehensively prohibited from signing for any club in the world.

**Notts** claims they paid \$10,000 for **Edge** and simply want the same in return.

**ABERDEEN** skipper **WILLIE MILLER** has bad news for the Premier League strikers. Miller, now 31, is feeling as fit as ever and reckons he can play for at least another three years.

The Scottish international, who has been at **Pittodrie** for 16 years, owns four popular pubs in the Granite City.

"Business is good, but my main concern is football and Aberdeen," he said.

**CELTIC** midfielder **RONNIE COYLE** has returned to Parkhead after two months on loan at **Middlesborough**.

The England Third Division club wanted to sign **Coyle**, but the two clubs could not agree on a fee.



**KENNY DALGLISH** on **PAUL WALSH's** recent sending off against **Southampton** in the **Littlewoods Cup** 0-0 draw.

"We won't be fining **Walsh**. I agree with the referee's decision but **Bond** spat in his face and that is hard to take for any player, especially a younger one."

**Walsh** was given his marching orders seconds after half-time when he simply walked up to **Kevin Bond** and decked him with a right hook. It was in fact **Walsh's** best shot of the match.

**CHICAGO** entrepreneur **SIRIO TONELLI** made his fortune from building churches. Now he's offering **MICHEL PLATINI**, the magnificent French star of glamour Italian club **Juventus**, a king's ransom to move to North America.

He wants **Platini** to do a **Pele** and relaunch the North American Soccer League.

**READING** have banked \$200,000 from the sale of **TREVOR HURLOCK** to **Millwall**.

**EIRE** international **MICHAEL ROBINSON** can't keep out of the news since his move from **QPR** to **Osasuna** in Spain.

When he's not scoring goals and knocking **Barcelona** out of the Spanish Cup he's getting sent off — all from being a languishing **QPR** reserve team player a month ago.

Now he's a big hero with the **Osasuna** fans.

**LEICESTER** have agreed to pay **Ipswich** \$200,000 for striker **MICH D'AVRAY** if he fits in with them at the end of his month's trial.

That would also be the signal for the release of million dollar rated front runner **ALAN SMITH**.

**WEST BROM** have been officially notified that **Liverpool's** interest in **DEREK STATHAM** is no longer and the Reds now have their eyes on **Aston Villa's** Australian left-back **TONY DORIGO**.

WHILST on **Dorigo**, the young Adelaide-born defender has turned down a move to **Chelsea**.

The brilliant left-back couldn't agree to terms with the club's manager **John Hollins**. Part of the deal was a move to **Villa** for **David Speedie**, but he couldn't agree on personal terms with **Villa** boss **Bill McNeill**.

**Dorigo** is the tenth top class player who has refused to move to **Stamford Bridge** this season.

## Not a lot of people know that

THE last player to score four goals in an F.A. Cup Fourth Round tie was **Clive Allen** in **QPR's** 5-1 win over **Blackpool** in January, 1982. This was a replay after a goalless draw.





## OXFORD MAY LOSE HOUGHTON ALSO

**THE honesty with which RAY HOUGHTON approaches his football is matched by the frankness shown by the 24-year-old Glaswegian when he admits that his future lies away from Oxford United.**

The cultured midfielder, who has seen John Aldridge get a dream move to Liverpool, admits: "I am happy at The Manor Ground, but I am also aware that Oxford will never be a great club."

"And, like John Aldridge I want to play for one of the major clubs. I'm an ambitious professional, and I do my best for Oxford in the hope that some day I will be wanted, and that some club will make an offer which Oxford believe is right for them."

The news will come as a major shock to the Manor faithful, who know that the quality in Maurice Evans' side would be thin on the ground if Houghton did leave.

But Houghton adds: "My personal ambition can only benefit Oxford because it means they will always get value for their wages out of me."

"My contract expires at the end of next season. The important thing is for the fans to know the difference between playing to get away and playing to get away and playing with pride and 100 per cent commitment to establish your reputation."

Houghton, a Republic of Ireland international like his former team-mate Aldridge, has more than proved his worth since being discarded by West Ham on a free transfer in 1982.

## Brighton's Barry Who?

**THE least known manager in the top divisions has been handed one of the hottest seats in football.**

But Brighton boss BARRY LLOYD is confident people will soon

stop saying: Barry Who?

Brighton have averaged a manager a year in recent seasons and, like Alan Mullery before him, Lloyd is working without the security of a contract at the Second Division club.

But as the dust settles at the Goldstone Ground after Mullery's shock — and some say shocking — dismissal just after the New Year, Lloyd is planning ahead.

And then, who is Barry Lloyd, the manager suddenly thrust into the limelight following Mullery's sacking?

He's 37-years-old and,

with the greatest of respect, rarely hit the high spots as a player.

His greatest achievement was probably being substitute for Fulham in the 1975 FA Cup Final when West Ham won 2-0.

Lloyd began his career under Tommy Docherty at Chelsea. As a 17-year-old he was sent-off in a pre-season friendly in Bermuda which prompted the outspoken Doc to say: "The referee should be locked in a cage."

This didn't go down too well with the locals and made front page news in the capital, Hamilton.

Lloyd never really established himself at Stamford Bridge and was valued at \$70,000 in the

\$140,000 exchange deal which took Fulham's John Dempsey to Chelsea.

He didn't impress immediately at Craven Cottage and was harassed by a section of the Fulham fans.

Manager Bill Dodgin stuck by him and even appointed him skipper before he moved to Hereford. From there it was on to Brentford, as well as Houston Hurricane in the USA, before turning to management.

Lloyd took over at Southern League Yeovil before moving to Worthing of the Vauxhall-Opel League.

Last year he received a call from Mullery and became the number two at Brighton.



**Who says GRAHAM ROBERTS resented losing his place in the Spurs defence to RICHARD GOUGH before moving to Rangers? Our picture shows Roberts passing on tips to Gough, such as "We need another two men back."**

**OXFORD has paid QPR \$300,000 for former England Under 21 keeper PETER HUCKER.**

**Their first choice was Everton's BOBBY MIMMS, but they shied away from the \$700,000 price tag.**



## Billy's big match

**THE Northern Irish FA have agreed to field an international XI against Oxford United in a testimonial for striker BILLY HAMILTON, forced to retire this season with a knee injury.**

**Billy is hoping to persuade PAT JENNINGS and GEORGE BEST to turn out for the game at the Manor Ground on Wednesday, March 11.**

## WIMBLEDON: The fairy-tale team

### BASSETT'S ALL-SORTS FACTORY

**DAVE "HARRY" BASSETT blew on his cup of tea and kicked at a piece of dirt. His exhausted Dons sat like guilty schoolboys, heads bowed, shoulders hunched. Liverpool were next door celebrating.**

"Sometimes I think I'm wasting my time with you lot," says Bassett. "And I thought we were going to give 'em a game. Instead, you got punished. We were rubbish."

They weren't entirely — even Kenny Dalglish admitted Wimbledon were entertaining — but it's on occasions like these that Bassett, operates off a short fuse and it doesn't help to remind him that his team have just lost to the League and Cup champions.

"You can tell your Mums and Dads that you've been playing the likes of Liverpool and Everton but you'll never be able to say you've beaten them if you keep poncing about."

Talking to Bassett about football is like chatting to a London cabbie about politics. You sit back and wait for the odd gem to roll off the tongue. "To be blunt, we've got a bunch of Third Division footballers playing in the First at a Fourth Division ground," said Bassett.

"But camaraderie is the key. If you've got disharmony and discord, it makes success impossible."

#### Meteoric

Wimbledon FC's meteoric rise from amateur football

nine years ago to Division One has already taken its place in soccer's fairytale file. Recently there has even been talk of a film company producing a real life movie about the club. If it happens, the centre of the story would have to be Bassett.

"Nothing here would have happened without him and I'd like to see who will stick around if he goes," said Alan Cork, the club's longest serving player. He was almost lost once (to Palace) and the time will come when he will go, perhaps even at the end of this season, although Samir Hammam, the Dons' Lebanese millionaire owner, and chairman Stanley Reed, hope desperately he will sign a new five-year contract.

Bassett is frank about that, too. "I haven't decided yet. We're still a bit adrift when it comes to talking money — if you know what I mean. And obviously I'm ambitious and want one day to be manager of a top club."

Not that Bassett is impoverished. In addition to his £28,000 — a pittance for a First Division manager — he's a partner in an insurance brokerage near his home in Northwood. He spends an hour or two at the firm's



**MEAN MACHINE:** Wimbledon's defence force — (l to r) goalkeeping skipper Dave Beasant, Brian Gayle, Alan Thorn, Nigel Winterburn and John Kay.

**EFFORT:** Wimbledon's John Fashanu chases Watford's Steve Sims last month. Goals from Vince Jones and Andy Sayer beat the Hornets 2-1.



office on his way to the training ground and keeps abreast of any developments en route with the help of a telephone in his sponsored car.

He joined Wimbledon in 1974 and was made manager six years later, when Dario Gradi moved to Palace.

At that stage, Wimbledon were floundering in the bottom half of Division Four but, under Bassett, went on to win all but four of their last 27 games, enough to earn promotion. Since then, success virtually has been a permanent resident at the club's tiny Plough Lane stadium.

"Most of the boys playing now were with me in Division Three. They've been able to build on their potential but still have a long way to go. We don't kid ourselves about having the greatest talent and our ground isn't exactly the Hilton Hotel but we deserve to be where we are. It wasn't a fiddle."

On home match days, Bassett arrives early, not just to organise the team but, certainly against Liverpool anyway, to hand out free tickets to apprentices not already assigned a seat. With 30 minutes to kick-off, he walked into the dressing room and asked: "Who are we playing today, then?"

At 2.55pm the referee put his head round the door. Bassett rallied his troops. "Are we going to try the fancy stuff or are we going to get the ball quickly in the box and start scoring goals?"

**CONTINUED  
NEXT WEEK  
— courtesy  
NZ SOCCER  
EXPRESS**